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ALGERIA

HOFFMAN DISCUSSES LIBERATION FRONT PARTY'S FOREIGN RELATIONS

Algiers AL-MUJAHID in Arabic No 1178, 4 Mar 83 pp 32-37

[Interview with Sliman Hoffman, member of the National Liberation Front Party's Central Committee, by (Bu'ushshah Muhammad); date and place not given]

[Text] The National Liberation Front Party is engaged in numerous activities at the foreign level out of loyalty to its principles, which seek to establish militant relations with the world's progressive and democratic parties and forces. The sphere of this activity has expanded and diversified, especially in the wake of the party's fourth congress. To put the reader in the picture insofar as this activity and its effectiveness are concerned, AL-MUJAHID has interviewed brother Sliman Hoffman, member of the party's Central Committee and chairman of its Foreign Relations Committee.

[Question] Can you tell us about the stages covered by the party's foreign policy in general since independence, especially since the party's fourth congress?

[Answer] To start with, I must say that my participation in the party's foreign policy since independence and up to the fourth congress was a general participation, considering that I was not an official of the party apparatus and did not enter it as an official until 1977.

In 1978, I was entrusted with supervising the party's Foreign Relations Committee to prepare for the fourth congress. The party's foreign policy is based on the well-known principles of the Algerian revolution that have been declared by congresses of the National Liberation Front Party, namely: The Tripoli congress (1962), the Algiers congress (1964) and the fourth congress (1979) [no mention made of third congress]. Moreover, the principles include the political leadership's instructions in the early phase of independence, the declaration of 19 June 1965, the instructions of the late President Houari Boumedienne and the instructions of President Chedli Bendjedid. The principles that govern our foreign policy are found in the action to strengthen our relations with the peoples:

Supporting the world's national liberation movements and their right to self-determination and independence.

Fully supporting the peoples fighting colonialism and imperialism and struggling to completely liberate their countries. This support covers all continents, especially the African continent, which has been fighting, especially since 1960, all forms of colonialism and subservience through its national liberation movements.

Supporting with all our resources the Arab nation's primary cause, namely, the Palestinian issue.

Any observer of the party's foreign policy knows that after 1978 there was a new start, which has been organized and entrenched since the party's fourth congress (1979).

The Foreign Relations Committee formed by the fourth congress has obtained numerous resources, and I cannot identify all of these resources. On the other hand, I can say that they are better than the resources we had at our disposal prior to the fourth congress.

As for our activity, it has been channeled fundamentally toward Arab issues, African issues and, primarily, toward the issue of the Saharan people.

But this important direction does not make us forget the relations binding us to our allies with whom we struggle against imperialism, namely, the socialist camp and the world's democratic and progressive forces, especially the democratic and progressive forces in West Europe.

We have, naturally, devoted special attention to the Mediterranean area, of which we are a part and which has a geopolitical importance. The Mediterranean area, as you know, contains several countries that are concerned with the area's problems. There is Spain, which has had a hand in the Sahara problem. There is also France, to which we are tied by various relations since old times and which is also concerned with the Western Sahara issue and with several other African issues. There is Italy, to which we are also bound by numerous relations. We must note here the Italian people's support for the Algerian liberation revolution.

There are other countries, such as Belgium, Germany, Sweden and the Netherlands, which are concerned and which, consequently, have an impact on the issues of East and South Africa.

At another level, we are currently discussing ways to strengthen contacts with the countries and political organizations fighting dictatorships in Latin America. These countries are led by Cuba--as an ideological motivator--to which we are tied by more than one relationship.

As for Asia, we also have numerous good relations, especially with Vietnam and North Korea. We are also proceeding in the direction of gradually expanding relations with China.

These (the Arab homeland, Africa, the Mediterranean, the Third World, the socialist camp and the world's progressive and democratic forces) are the arenas of the party's foreign policy.

Naturally, our relations with these circles are not all at the same level. Moreover, our relations as a party are channeled primarily toward:

The parties considered a backbone and through which we can establish strong relations with peoples and popular professional organizations.

Participation in regional [jahawayah] and international meetings, such as OAU and Arab League conferences.

Participation in the conferences of the regional popular organizations. What I have said continues to govern the development of the party's foreign policy. So this is the framework with which we are working and implementing the fundamental principle of our foreign policy, namely, "improving the relations with the world's peoples."

[Question] It is well known that the National Liberation Front led the battle of liberation and of armed struggle and gained victory in the battle. Since independence, the party and the leadership of the revolution have continued efforts to achieve complete economic and cultural independence. There is no doubt that this requires relations with the outside world insofar as these two sectors are concerned.

[Answer] The armed struggle waged by the Algerian people under the National Liberation Front's leadership and the victory they scored against French colonialism and its allies (NATO and the Western camp) gave Algeria a great moral and political weight. This is a fundamental gain, which we have preserved. This gain has impressed on the officials in charge of foreign policy the need to control the means and methods of our foreign relations. Algeria, naturally, has its major impact abroad by virtue of our principled and responsible positions toward the just causes concerning mankind, especially the Third World countries.

The relations binding us to the outside world for a long time remained purely political. Through those relations, we disseminated and explained the principles in which we believe and the means and methods we followed to help the peoples fighting colonialism and imperialism.

But as I have already said, our relations continued to be confined to the political sphere.

But this doesn't mean that we did not aid many of the liberation movements materially. On the contrary, in the wake of independence, we advanced extensive material, political, diplomatic and moral assistance to the world's liberation movements, especially in Africa, as in Guinea Bissau, Angola, Mozambique, Congo, following its change of regime, and other movements.

Even when we advanced material aid, it continued to be subject to political relations. These alone are not enough to entrench relations. This is why we have begun to expand our relations to the economic and cultural spheres.

Insofar as the economic sphere is concerned, it is not enough to say that we have relations. Rather, these relations must be crystallized. We have been working along these lines for some years and are still doing so.

This is what allowed us at the fourth congress to defend the need to establish an NQDJ [acronym not explained] and revive the north-south dialogue. But the impediments and obstacles created by the capitalist countries have entrenched the idea of working to achieve the south-south dialogue and cooperation, which we had presented to the fourth conference of the nonaligned movement that convened in Algiers in 1973.

An observer of our foreign policy cannot but stress that we have worked according to the [idea of] intersouth cooperation, especially with neighboring countries on the Mediterranean and in Africa. This is important because it shows and highlights the determination and the resources available to the developing countries to change the international economic situation, which serves no more than a handful of countries.

The only means of changing this situation is intersouth cooperation and moving ahead with development.

Even though the resources of the developing countries in the technological sphere are small, if every country with experience and every country or sector specialized in the production of a certain commodity provides its knowledge, expertise and experience to other countries so that they can gain this knowledge, then we will inevitably advance. Moreover, the mutual cooperation existing between the Third World countries must be strengthened. We have always exerted efforts in this direction. This also applies to our cultural relations with the outside world and we can say that we have benefited from and have been beneficial to others through this cultural exchange.

Within the framework of the party's external activity, we can say that in the wake of the fourth congress we have controlled our economic relations with the outside world in the desired manner. Today, the party's foreign relations carefully observe government activities generally and particularly the relations of the ministries and other establishments that have economic relations with the outside world.

The party also takes part in making the decisions pertaining to this area and acts to implement them. The party takes part not only in the political meetings between Algeria and other countries but also in the economic meetings involving Algeria. We must also know that the party's foreign activity is not confined to the friendly parties and to political relations and that the party has relations that cover all other activities. Moreover, the Foreign Relations Committee follows up on the activities of the professional

and popular organizations, such as engineers, development experts, economists, writers and others.

The thing that the Algerian strugglers and the people must know is that the party's foreign relations are not only political relations but relations that cover all spheres.

It is our duty to follow up with great attention the economic and development sectors. For example, we are following up on the ongoing gas negotiations between Algeria and foreign countries.

Within the framework of the relations between the party and the country's political authorities in charge of gas, we have a role to play and this role requires expertise in this particular sphere, namely, the sphere of petrochemicals.

Moreover, affairs require us to have experience in all other spheres, and all of this seeks to serve the country and its security.

[Question] Our political literature contains a frequently reiterated phrase, namely, that our foreign policy is a reflection of our domestic policy. Would you mind explaining this statement and citing some examples of it?

[Answer] Our political literature contains a frequently reiterated phrase, namely, that our foreign policy is a true mirror of what is happening inside the country, i.e., our domestic policy. I must say here with utter frankness, and the masses must know this, that the credit for the great accomplishments achieved by our foreign policy goes to the results we have achieved internally.

The Algerian experiment is the object of extensive attention from the developing countries, especially the progressive countries, by virtue of the fact that it is not a capitalist system or a communist system. Rather, it is an experiment that seeks socialism and social justice.

The Algerian experiment befits the aspirations of peoples because it respects a society's personality and particulars, affords freedom, permits actual participation by the masses and is based on dialogue between the base and the top. We thus find an exchange of opinions between the two. Moreover, the political leadership cannot swerve from the masses' aspirations but works to achieve these aspirations, according to available resources, of course.

The Algerian experiment is important and the proof is that many Third World countries and regimes have continued to follow it with interest and appreciation. For example, many Third World parties and countries are following with interest the popular councils in the village, the municipality, the province, the factory, the farm, the popular organizations and the professional organizations. These councils participate effectively in

making decisions in Algeria by virtue of the constant contact that exists between them and the leadership.

At another level, many foreign countries have asked us to supply them with all of the Algerian revolutionary documents drafted by the party, such as the national charter, the constitution, the laws, the socialist management and agricultural revolution charters and the laws pertaining to the life of the workers. This is something that is very important for the Algerian revolution.

Our analysis, of course, is that they then study our charters and documents and compare them with the long-range goals we have formulated and with the extent to which these charters have been implemented, they will find a gap between what has been achieved and what we seek to achieve. But this is an experiment, and because it is an experiment it is natural that it will be deficient because perfection belongs to God alone. But this motivates us to mobilize the citizens and the strugglers and to make them aware of these shortcomings so that better results may be achieved.

These are natural things in a country waging a battle on numerous fronts. This is why there is great foreign interest in what is happening in our country.

This does not mean that Algeria wants to export its model or its revolution. Rather, we respect the experiments of others and deal in our relations with foreign countries on this basis.

To put it briefly, I say that our foreign activity is governed by the activities taking place internally.

[Question] Since the party's fourth congress, the National Liberation Front Party's activity has expanded at both domestic and external levels. The Foreign Relations Committee has been exerting active efforts to expand the framework of relations with the fraternal and friendly parties. What is your evaluation of this external activity?

[Answer] The assessment of 4 years of activity is that our relations with other parties and organizations have been expanded and strengthened.

In figures, we can say that we have organized relations based on precise programs and extending over a set period with 50 parties. We also have contacts or relations with 20 more parties and we are in the process of organizing these relations in the near future. We also have relations with 30 professional and regional organizations and numerous other contacts, even with moderate parties and others. This means that we have no problems with anybody. In these relations, we defend the principles of right and justice. We can establish contact with any circle to convince it of our opinion. This means that we apply activity because in the past we were somewhat intransigent. But now Algeria has a sound, broad base and strong institutions that enable it to contact any circle according to its principles. It can be said that our activities and relations have expanded greatly.

Consequently, our activities have multiplied, whereas the number in the party's Foreign Committee is still small. This may be explained by the numerous and diverse domestic activities. Each cadre in this committee undertakes numerous tasks and responsibilities. This is the general picture of the party's foreign activity over the past 4 years.

[Question] The Mediterranean area, both in the south and the north, is experiencing serious tension. In the south, the Zionist entity persists in its aggression against the Palestinian people and the neighboring peoples. This is insofar as the Arab East is concerned. As for the Arab Maghreb, some countries have turned to concluding military agreements with the United States that permit the establishment of military espionage bases.

In the northern Mediterranean, NATO, led by the United States, has strengthened its military bases, has built new bases and deployed nuclear missiles in some countries overlooking the Mediterranean. All this poses a threat to the security and peace of the area of which we are a part.

How do you view the confrontation against this challenge, especially since the Liberation Front Party is tied by more than one relationship to many of the progressive parties in the Mediterranean?

[Answer] I will try to give you a convincing answer.

The issue you have raised is not an easy one and is not an issue that concerns Algeria alone. Algeria is not an island in the area insofar as this issue is concerned. On the other hand, the word island applies to Algeria when the issue pertains to personality, logic and the political options adopted by the revolution. Algeria has become a progressive island in the area.

Our world is in a struggle dominated generally by the struggle between the East and the West. There are two superpowers struggling and competing and these two powers have allies at various levels of strength compared with the strength of these two powers. But these allies, such as the West European countries, do constitute a power.

So there is the Western camp, which contains two powers--the United States and West Europe--and the Eastern camp. Finally, there is the Third World, of which we are a part.

In this world of ours, there are sensitive areas, such as the Caribbean in Latin America, the Mediterranean Sea, the Indian Ocean, the Arab Gulf, Africa and Southeast Asia.

Algeria is in one of these areas, namely, the Mediterranean area.

The Mediterranean has a deeply rooted history and, consequently, is influential. It is well known that numerous civilizations have risen in the Mediterranean. This is what has led us to say that the Mediterranean Sea is

like a laboratory in which all ideas and civilizations come in contact with each other without clashing. Moreover, the Mediterranean is a route that links the developing Third World with the advanced world.

In view of Algeria's history and influence and in view of our location on the Mediterranean, we have been foremost among the countries struggling to establish lasting security and peace in this area.

But also because of this weight and the progressive role played by Algeria in the area, there are some countries that do not march with us along the same path--the path of freedom, peace, progress and unity--and that are trying to besiege Algeria.

We have struggled for the unity of the Arab Maghreb, hoping that this unity would form an impenetrable barrier in the face of the imperialist maneuvers and intervention in the Mediterranean. Though we have not succeeded so far for reasons beyond our control, we are still exerting efforts on this path by changing the ideas opposed to this unity.

Moreover, many of the north Mediterranean countries (European countries) are fighting the issue of the Arab Maghreb's unity, in the belief that this unity will create new facts and concepts in the area that will not be in the interest of these countries. Besides, we will have a human, economic, cultural and civilizational impact (if this unity is realized).

Due to numerous factors, the superpowers have been able to infiltrate the Mediterranean and a permanent foreign presence has come into existence because this sea is a strategic route through which raw materials from Africa and Asia pass to supply Europe with what it needs.

In case of war, the Mediterranean becomes one of the most important strategic routes and areas in the world. A proof of this importance is the struggle that took place between the combatants in the two world wars for control over this route.

Because of these factors and others, we are experiencing serious tensions in the Mediterranean in this phase. This is what has motivated us to say that there is only one way to solve the Mediterranean's problems, and it is not military conflict but rather fruitful and honest cooperation between all of the neighboring countries overlooking the Mediterranean, both Arab and European countries, provided that this cooperation includes cultural dialogue and political dialogue. All this will bring the area's peoples closer to each other.

[Question] Do you mean that cooperation is tantamount to a means that can be used to confront the current challenges?

[Answer] Yes, we hope that this cooperation will guarantee the Mediterranean area's stability, tranquility and security. We have been taking initiatives

in this direction since 1976 and we hope to attain with the other countries a formula that will lead us to what we aspire to--the happiness of the area's peoples.

On the other hand, we reject any initiative that seeks to divide or fragment the Mediterranean area. This is a goal that imperialism is seeking to achieve through the problem of the Middle East, where an entity alien to the area occupies the Arab Palestinian people's land, through the Cypriot problem, through some problems in Greece and Turkey and through the Sahara problem.

This is why we must be vigilant in the face of the imperialist schemes because this will enable us to overcome the problems that loom in the Mediterranean area.

It is true that these are great and difficult problems. But the policy of cooperation and dialogue is capable of finding solutions to these problems of ours.

[Question] Most of the principles on which the National Liberation Front Party is founded and on whose basis this party deals with the projected international issues agree with the principles on which the socialist bloc parties are founded, including, for example, struggle against colonialism and imperialism, self-determination and so forth. This being the case, what are the dimensions of the cooperation and coordination that exist between the National Liberation Front Party and these parties?

[Answer] The socialist camp is our ally in the struggle against imperialism, there is proximity between the socialist camp societies and our society and we have common goals in many issues.

There is a complete agreement of viewpoints on the issue of supporting and backing the liberation movements' struggles for self-determination. Moreover, we and these parties struggle together in international organizations for goals that are virtually identical.

Furthermore, strong and diverse economic relations bind us to this camp and the trade volume is, in turn, growing daily.

Generally, I will say that there is no disagreement between us. On the contrary, the contacts between us grow and develop day after day. What you must know is that we have good relations with most countries and parties, with all countries of the Third World and with the world's progressive and democratic forces, especially the socialist camp.

Naturally, we cannot meet with imperialism and we are engaged in a historical struggle against it. What you must also realize is that we deal with these imperialists within the framework of our principles, our personality and our Islamic Arab traditions and according to the aspirations and goals of our people, who do not think of expansion or of intervention in the affairs of others. The people's aspirations center totally on building the country,

improving the masses' standard of living, befriending neighboring peoples, primarily, and all peoples struggling for freedom and peace. These peoples include, of course, the peoples of the socialist camp.

[Question] What about the relations with the West European socialist parties, some of which have recently assumed power?

[Answer] We have had contacts and relations with these parties for a long time.

We were confident that these parties would attain power and would triumph. Their victory is tantamount to a victory for us, considering that there are important issues that unite us with them.

In our view, the triumph of these parties will further strengthen the democratic and progressive forces in Europe and in the world.

It is our duty now to deal with them because at one time these parties, along with the other democratic forces in Europe, were our only friends while many West European regimes continued to antagonize us and to act against our interests.

Therefore, the cooperation existing between us must be strengthened and must become comprehensive.

[Question] The National Liberation Front Party is one of the parties that are deeply rooted in the resistance against all forms of colonialism and racism and that are eager to enable the peoples to exercise their right to self-determination. Within this framework, how does the party evaluate the achievement of this right by the Palestinian, Namibian, South African and Saharan peoples and others?

[Answer] During the French colonization of Algeria, we experienced what these peoples are experiencing at present. We expelled the French colonists after a war of liberation that lasted 7 years. Consequently, I can say that we have experience with the concept of resistance, steadfastness, the unity of ranks and ideas and struggle. All these are things that can help these peoples free themselves from colonialism and imperialism.

We have tried to establish unity of ranks and struggle among these peoples against their enemies.

Every issue has its environment--a close environment and a remote environment that affect the development of these peoples' struggles against their enemies.

We have pointed out on several occasions that Namibia's enemy and Palestine's enemy is the same. Racism and Zionism are allied against these two people and against the Arabs and Africa and they coordinate their schemes for further expansion. All this takes place under the protection of the United States and it can be foiled only through the unity of opinion, the unification

of ranks, steadfastness and martyrdom--all of which will inevitably lead to victory and independence.

Peoples don't know the impossible when defending their just causes. There is no doubt that the Palestinian and Namibian peoples and others are determined to achieve victory because they are fighting for the restoration of their lands and their homes. This may require a long time, sacrifices, blood and martyrs, but they will ultimately triumph. This is why we are confident of final victory.

[Question] Can you tell us about the National Liberation Front Party's position toward the challenges facing the Arab nation in particular and the African continent generally and what are the dimensions of the efforts exerted by the party at the Arab and African levels to confront these challenges?

[Answer] Imperialism commits its aggressions either directly or through its allies, especially through the Zionist entity and the regime in Pretoria.

Imperialism relies in a fundamental manner on the Zionist entity, which is found everywhere (in Latin America, Africa...) to discipline countries that refuse to submit to U.S. conditions.

Moreover, the United States, the Zionist entity and Pretoria have the same goals, the same means and the same program and scheme. This scheme seeks to divide and fragment the Arab homeland and Africa. This scheme has been targeted against the Western Sahara, the Namibia issue, the Chad issue and the intensifying struggle in the Arab East, simultaneously.

Considering that the enemies view the Arabs and the Africans with the same hostility, then we must also act in accordance with a single strategy of struggle to confront them.

The efforts being exerted by imperialism and its allies to spread chaos inside Algeria itself come within the U.S. imperialist-Zionist-general racist scheme. Moreover, the creation of the Sahara problem indicates clearly that imperialism and its allies want to put an end to Algeria's liberationist role in the area and the world by creating these problems for Algeria.

These matters must be taken into consideration when evaluating the problems to which the Arabs and the Africans are being exposed so that we can emerge with general and unified methods and means to confront the imperialist-Zionist-racist scheme. This will require hard and extensive efforts on our part. But victory will come, no matter how long it takes. At the same time, we must exert active efforts in West Europe and in the other countries of the world to convince them of the justness of the struggle we, the Arabs and the Africans, are waging. We must also establish contacts with the socialist camp and with the world's democratic and progressive forces. This means that when we formulate a plan, we should have the foresight to take into consideration all regional and international components.

[Question] And what about the crisis of the OAU [Organization of African Unity]?

[Answer] There are still three African countries that are not independent (the Sahara, Namibia and South Africa) and it is our duty and the OAU's duty to help the peoples of these regions to achieve liberation and become independent.

Algeria is helping the liberation movements of these countries with all of its material, political and diplomatic resources.

In view of the important role that the OAU has performed in the African arena, imperialism and its allies have moved in accordance with the scheme I have just discussed to break up this organization and to paralyze its members.

The current crisis in the OAU is, as I have already said, part of the imperialist-Zionist-racist scheme. This scheme seeks to destroy a number of regional and international organizations in which imperialism does not have a "veto," i.e., the organizations that are not under its control.

This scheme has, as you know, succeeded in freezing the Arab League and is now in the process of shaking the OAU. To achieve this goal, imperialism, Zionism and racism have proceeded to create a number of problems in Africa so as to deprive the OAU of consensus so that the organization will refrain from adopting any resolutions hostile to imperialist interests. This means loss of the organization's unity of resolution and unity of ranks. The African countries will thus become dispersed, with nothing to unite them. Here, imperialism interferes to talk about this or that African country. Thus, the goal of imperialism is to deal with each African country separately because dealing with an entire group makes it difficult for imperialism to impose its colonialist schemes. This is why imperialism has created the OAU crisis, first by way of the Sahara problem and then by way of the Chad problem. It is possible that Namibia will become the issue tomorrow, and God knows what next. This is why imperialism has exerted pressure on some African countries and created internal problems (economic, cultural and political) in others so that they cannot take part in the OAU's 19th conference.

These problems ultimately have imposed U.S. opinion on these countries. Otherwise, how could one explain the statements made by some of these countries to the effect that they will not attend the 19th summit if it is held in Tripoli? This is a feeble and false pretext.

It is now proposed that the 19th conference be held at the OAU headquarters in Addis Ababa. However, we don't know what they will invent this time.

As the conference data approaches, imperialism and its allies will create problems for some African countries so that their presidents cannot attend

the summit and their absence will diminish the influence of the summit and of the resolutions it adopts.

We also find nowadays that the nonaligned movement faces the same challenges, with imperialism exerting efforts to intervene in the domestic affairs of some countries so that they do not attend the movement's seventh conference and so that the movement can be frozen and divided. As a party, we must be vigilant and must try to alert our friends so that we can stand united in the face of these assaults. This vigilance is an important means for safeguarding our options, our principles and our interests.

[Question] Are there other issues preoccupying the party's Foreign Relations Committee?

[Answer] We are giving thought to ways to raise the party's foreign relations to a high level and we are thinking of conducting studies and analyses of our future foreign policy, both in neighboring areas and in other parts of the world, within the framework of an organized long-range plan.

We are also thinking of how to organize this institution carefully and to form a special forum [makhbar] for foreign relations in which all of the experts meet so that our foreign policy will continue to be a true reflection of our domestic policy. This is our goal.

There is another idea to which we aspire, namely, that the university turn into a laboratory for national policy, both domestic and foreign. This requires our youth, especially our students, to be aware and to shoulder their responsibilities. This is their duty. Their duty is not just to study but also to participate at the same time in the general national life. This participation must be orderly [nizamiyah], scientific and tangible and based on Algerian ideas, not foreign ideas or concepts and not through chaos, rioting or shouting slogans that have nothing to do with our options and with the goals of our revolution.

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EGYPT

ACQUISITION OF AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY FROM FAR EAST COUNTRIES DISCUSSED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 23, 24 Apr 83

[Interview with Dr Yusuf Wali, minister of agriculture, by 'Abd al-Rahman 'Aql; date and place not given]

[23 Apr 83 p 13]

[Text] The talk about President Mubarak's tour of the Far East countries will continue to attract a good part of our attention because the results achieved by the delegation accompanying the president are influential in our economic relations and because they revive old relations with some of these countries and strengthen and enhance new relations with others. Despite the difference in the regimes of the countries visited by President Mubarak, the emphasis has been laid on one thing, namely, how to benefit from the experiences of others in the sphere of production, regardless of who these others are.

A lot happened on this long tour, the discussions and negotiations occupied pages in the press daily during the president's tour abroad and the Council of Ministers has discussed the outcome of these negotiations. The most important issue preoccupying the president throughout the tour was the issue of supplying food to Egypt and of how to achieve self-sufficiency in food. In China and Japan, attention focused on rice seedlings, on developing Egyptian fish farms and on acquiring the right technology to enhance Egypt's agricultural production. In Pakistan, there was agreement to obtain buffalo strains to improve the Egyptian strains and enhance their production.

Considering that the primary concern of every home in Egypt is how to get food, it is necessary that the dialogue with Dr Yusuf Wali, minister of state for agriculture and food security, concern itself not only with the results but also with how they are going to be applied and utilized and to what extent will they contribute to achieve self-sufficiency.

Far From Protocol

[Question] Disregarding your position of responsibility, what is your impression of the president's Far East tour and what is the impact of this external activity on the internal situation?

[Answer President Mubarak's visits abroad are aimed at external aspects concerning the area, such as the Palestinian problem. As everyone knows, the president discussed this issue in detail in his press conferences in Japan and Pakistan and in all the Asian countries covered by the tour. The president's thinking on this issue is clear, namely, the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace. But I can say that it was obvious throughout the tour that the president had on his mind a goal that he stressed in all his moves, namely, to achieve domestic progress for the country. He made quick comparisons of the technologies he saw in these countries. He was constantly comparing everything abroad and considering the possibility of adapting it for use in Egypt. He asked the delegation after every meeting we held: What have you done, what have you gotten and what new technology have you acquired that can be used in Egypt? In China, after completing the talks and while on his way to his residence, the president said to me: Get in the car with me. The president was not so much concerned with protocol as he was interested in following up on the delegation's work and in asking me about the results achieved.

We Knew

[Question] Is the technology and are the new agricultural methods we will acquire fit for agriculture in Egypt and for the Egyptian farmer? Are they easy to apply and to acquire?

[Answer] Regarding the technology we have acquired from China, such as the machinery for planting rice seedlings and harvesting rice, we had been aware of the presence of this machinery in China and had received pamphlets from the Philippines International Rice Center on this machinery. After studying the pamphlets, we learned of innovations in China on this type of machinery that suit our conditions in Egypt. Chinese experts had designed and built this machinery for the Philippines. It was necessary on our part to be aware in advance of the technology available in these countries in order to acquire it and evaluate its use locally. Without such advance knowledge, these countries do not rush to announce the technology available to them. The merit of this machinery is that it does not completely mechanize rice cultivation and that it requires a degree of manual labor. Therefore, it is a technology compatible with Egyptian agricultural conditions. It is possible for the Egyptian farmer to purchase such a seeder and harvester because it costs no more than 700-800 pounds. It is not only the low cost of the machine. We also want the technology we receive from these countries so that we can manufacture locally because of its simplicity, and the possibility of manufacturing this machine at the war plants has been studied. Generally, it was agreed with the Chinese side that it would supply enough machinery to cultivate 500 feddans with rice, with the acreage increased gradually to reach 10,000 feddans. The Chinese side has shown its readiness to send the experts needed for implementation. On the other hand, I discussed yesterday with the Ministry of Agriculture undersecretary for machanization affairs, the general director of the Center for the Development of Industrial and Engineering Designs and private sector experts the question of manufacturing locally 15 of the rice seeding and harvesting machines now used in Japan.

Highly Productive Strains That Can Be Cultivated Mechanically

The second point in increasing rice productivity and spreading mechanization pertains to the acquisition of new highly productive strains that can be cultivated mechanically. Some of these strains mature quickly. We have, for example, acquired a rice strain--(Rin Zao)--that ripens within 120 days, after which it is harvested to a height of 20 centimeters above the ground and then irrigated and fertilized to produce another crop within 80 days, without the need for new seeding. This strain has been tried in Egypt and the results have been encouraging. We have thus asked for quick-maturing and high-productivity strains, both of which are means of increased vertical production. China, for example, in some areas cultivates three crops of quick-maturing rice annually and in other areas two crops annually. Egypt's climate is convenient for two rice crops annually if the cultivation is started early. For example, in China and Japan, where the climate is cold, rice is now in the form of seedlings, whereas we have not started cultivating yet. This means that if we cultivate 20-25 days earlier and turn to mechanized seeding, we can harvest two rice crops annually. This is why I have personally devoted great attention to Dr Mustafa al-Jabali's experiment at the Scientific Research Academy, although this experiment has been attacked strongly, even inside the Council of Ministers. This experiment will be conducted over nearly 12,000 feddans. We do not force anything on the farmer, who has the absolute freedom to cultivate according to the said program [experiment] or according to prevailing cultivation conditions.

New Strains of Wheat, Barley and Corn

To complete the efforts to close the gap in grain production, agreement has been reached to import highly productive strains of wheat along with the strains of rice that yield two crops annually. It has also been agreed to import new strains of barley and corn. The fundamental goal is to raise the production of grain crops in order to bridge the food gap. We have exchanged letters of agreement in this respect. On the other hand, we are very interested in cooperating with them [not specified] in this sphere and in supplying them with certain strains of cotton, with the approval of his excellency the president.

Efforts Continue With All Countries

As I said at the outset, we cooperate with all friendly countries to complete the efforts to increase our food production. Within this framework, Korea, for example, has an excellent technology for the cultivation of rice seedlings --a technology that is ahead of China's and behind Japan's. Korea is one of the new horizons open to us. We have acquired machinery from the Koreans and they will send us three experts. We are planning to utilize these experts in governorates not already covered by other experiments. The purpose here is to have competition between China, Japan and Korea and to have them all cooperate with us in spreading the use of mechanization and enhancing production. We have also acquired from Korea three other strains that no other country has been able to acquire. The Koreans have responded to us and agreed to supply the three strains out of appreciation

for his excellency the president and on the occasion of his visit. These are highly productive strains that mature quickly. We have also agreed with Korea and China to acquire the technology for fish farming in fresh water. Because the system followed in both countries is the system of "centralized agriculture," it is easy for them to make the decisions and to supply the technology through agreement with the government, contrary to Japan which, as a capitalist society, is willing to supply the technology, provided that we pay for it in cash. We have purchased 230 machines, which are not a grant and for which we have paid by providing the allocations from the ministry. We will use this machinery to cultivate 60,000 feddans with rice seedlings this year.

[Question] Have we not tried to manufacture this machine locally, as we have done with the machinery acquired from China?

[Answer] We did actually contact the war plants and they studied this machine. However, it has become evident that this machine cannot be manufactured locally because it contains 2,000 parts. Moreover, Japan does not engage in and is not inclined toward joint production with anybody. They prefer to sell their own products.

Two Kilograms of (Fuji Hi Kara)

We have been asking the Japanese for the (Fuji Hi Kara) strain of rice for 9 years without any response from them because the Japanese do not readily give away the knowledge they have. We have exerted concerted efforts in this regard and I took advantage of the meeting between the Japanese minister of foreign affairs and Kamal Hasan 'Ali, the deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, and asked the Japanese minister to meet our request in this regard. Two days ago, the Japanese ambassador to Egypt met with me upon his return from Japan and handed me a message to the effect that on the occasion of the president's visit, they agreed to supply us with the desired strain of rice and sent us 2 kilograms of this strain. This strain of rice is neutral photosynthetically, meaning that it needs no certain light requirements. Thus, it can be cultivated in more than one location throughout the year.

Changing Concept of Egyptian Agriculture.

The more comprehensive goal is to modernize Egyptian agriculture. It is unreasonable for the primitive plough, pictures of which are seen on the ancient Egyptian temples, to continue to be used. We must seek to mechanize agriculture because this mechanization serves the goals of cultural, social and economic progress, in addition to confronting the problems of the scarcity and high wages. What we mean here is, of course, suitable and small-scale mechanization. In this respect, the various financing agencies, the banks being the most important, are considered responsible for channeling a part of their investments toward the projects that produce small machinery and to encourage such projects.

Small Holdings Are No Problem

[Question] There is a view which holds that the problem of small holdings may be an obstacle in the face of expanded mechanization and that the inclination toward full mechanization requires reexamination of the ownership systems, either by expanding the system of cooperatives or by turning to the vast areas of recently reclaimed lands.

[Answer] This view is somewhat exaggerated. On our way by train from Tokyo to Osaka, for example, his excellency the president remarked that the distinguishing characteristic in ownership was small holdings consisting of nearly 1.5 feddans. Each farmer had set aside a small area of 20-40 square meters covered with plastic to prepare the seedling trays early. It is obvious that they utilize all the accomplishments of the age of technology.

They are also trying to achieve self-sufficiency in rice in Indonesia. They have excellent strains there, some of which we will acquire. This is in addition to utilizing good kinds of fruit that are easy to cultivate in Egypt. They have fruits that are new to us and we have asked for some of these fruits to try them in Egypt. The Indonesians will host the dean of al-Azhar University's School of Agriculture at their expense. He is a fruit specialist and he will visit them to reach agreement on the kinds of fruit they will supply, including bananas, a kind of fruit called (chico) and other tropical fruits. However, the possibility of benefiting from their technology in our country is almost nonexistent.

Pakistan, for example, imported 2 million tons of wheat in 1978. This year, it has exported 40,000 tons to Iran. Even last year, Pakistan exported nearly 50,000 tons. This year, they have in Pakistan a surplus of nearly 400,000 tons of sugar. They have succeeded in achieving self-sufficiency. The base on which they have relied is the base of correct policies toward the small farmer and the regulated use of water.

The system of holdings is not a problem. The problem is sound planning and proper implementation. This is what we are seeking.

How Will Dialogue of Poor or of Developing Countries or South-South Dialogue Take Place?

[Question] There is an international food crisis that is not confined to certain countries and that has its impact on all countries of the world, both the food exporting and food importing countries. Therefore, your responsibility, along with the ministers of the various countries, is to exert efforts to eliminate and control the crisis, regardless of the existing group and their inclinations, such as the north-south dialogue, the first and Third World countries and other divisions. How do you view the efforts that must be exerted by the international community in this respect?

[Answer] During the meetings of the technical [as published] ministers at the Delhi nonalignment conference, President Mubarak stressed the need for holding this dialogue and for a meeting that would include Egypt, Yugoslavia,

India and the group of nonaligned countries to study agricultural development in these countries, with the meeting to be held in Cairo in November. In Yugoslavia, I raised the issue of the dialogue to which the president had referred. I also discussed the issue in China. The Chinese pointed out that they are not a member of the nonaligned movement and they attend its meetings only as observers. China has expressed interest in the south-south dialogue and its readiness to take part in it. I presented the issue to the colleagues and there has been almost full consensus on the south-south dialogue, with the outcome of this dialogue to then be conveyed to the nonaligned countries. At the same time, the U.S. secretary of agriculture invited me a week before the trip to attend the conference of the food-producing countries that will be held in Washington next June. The secretary also invited me to visit him and to meet with 20 ministers of agriculture from various parts of the world to discuss the world's agricultural development problems. I also discussed with the secretary the concept of the dialogue between the developing countries and the U.S. secretary said: We can embark on a dialogue with you as advanced countries. I discussed this issue in all the countries I visited and they agreed to attend the south-south dialogue to which Egypt will present a special working paper.

This is, of course, a new and big economic entity and it can establish a new and beneficial economic dialogue.

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[Text] The president's Far East tour was a successful beginning to benefit from the experiences of others that can be adopted in order to supply food to every citizen.

The issue has more than one dimension. The most serious of these is perhaps the tendency--emerging after long neglect or with less interest than necessary--to improve the agricultural livestock strains, both plant and livestock strains, and to turn to strains proven to be superior in productivity and quick-maturing, thus providing the opportunity to add a third annual crop.

The second dimension is the modern technology that helps to enhance production and solve labor problems, whether problems of scarcity or of high cost.

In his statements yesterday, Dr Yusuf Wali discussed some of the new trends within this framework. Today, the minister of state for agriculture completes the interview on how to supply food to every citizen or, to put it more precisely, how to supply food to every citizen at an affordable price.

[Question] The question continues to be: What about implementation? In other words, what are the executive steps needed to put the modern trends into practice? What is your view of the transfer of modern technology, whether the transfer of machinery, of strains, of processes or of methods of preparation and cultivation, such as the methods of rice seeding? Then there

is the impact of this transfer on production. What I mean is: Can we say that the interaction of these modern trends with good implementation will result in self-sufficiency? Also, do you think that we might face problems in implementation that will, naturally, affect production and achievement of the goal?

[Answer] I am eager to point out here that the transfer of modern technology to the agricultural sector poses no problem and that implementation is easy. The Egyptian farmer responds to modernization processes as long as he realizes their importance to enhancing production and, consequently, to raising his personal income. For example, the farmers in al-Daqahliyah competed strongly last year in an experiment on seeding rice mechanically. Without exaggeration, the problems arising between the farmers in their efforts to get seedling trays, approximately 100 trays per feddan, had to be settled by the police at times because every farmer wanted to use those seedlings. So the problem lies not in the farmer's belief and faith in the technology but basically in providing the resources to meet the needs of all the governorates. For example, we don't have the machinery to cultivate 60,000 feddans with rice seedlings. If we had such resources, it would actually be possible to cultivate 60,000 feddans. At present, we have nearly 20 Egyptians receiving training in Japan and on their return, each of them will train a number of other people.

Moreover, one of my most important goals is to have machinery operated by agricultural engineers themselves or by graduates of the middle-level agricultural and industrial schools and not be unskilled workers. I will thus achieve two goals: First, eliminate hidden unemployment and turn it into productive labor, in addition to giving the workers rewarding incentives. For example, the engineer used to get an average of 2-4 pounds daily in extra wages added to his salary. This is, naturally, a good social step, which makes it possible to benefit from these capabilities in practical ways. The second step is the machinery itself, after training. This is why I channel most of the funds and investments allocated for mechanization operations to the purchase of machinery. I seek to supply the machinery at the central level so as to reduce the cost to the farmer. If the cost of cultivation, harvesting and threshing is 120-140 pounds per feddan, the use of machinery will save one half this cost. This is in addition to such factors as accuracy, time saving and increased productivity. Last year, for example, the average production of rice per feddan in the mechanized cultivation areas was 4.5 tons compared with 2.4 tons [in conventional cultivation areas]. If we set as a target an increase of 1 ton per feddan within 7 years, this alone would mean an additional million tons of rice, of which 700,000 tons could be exported at a price two or three times the price of wheat.

Integration Is Hope for Self-Sufficiency in Wheat

As for wheat, we will not achieve self-sufficiency due to considerations of relative benefits. But this self-sufficiency can be achieved through integration with other countries in the area. We are presently trying to

cultivate in Sudan the strain of wheat known as 2188, a strain resistant to drought and semidrought conditions. Should we succeed in our experiment, wheat can be cultivated in Sudan for the benefit of both countries. Let us return to implementation:

Insofar as procedures are concerned, we are inclined toward centralism through coordination with the governorates. Agricultural guidance is currently provided on 60,000 feddans. We will later begin borrowing for the establishment of mechanized agriculture cooperatives. We will also advance loans to individuals to start private sector mechanization firms, in addition to the government companies. All this will be done within the framework of the food security loans so as to make mechanization accessible to every farmers not only through a single channel but through all the governmental, public and private sectors and through competition between all these sectors in the interests of the farmer.

I expect a large number of the workers operating the machinery at present to turn into machinery owners because this machinery is a profitable investment. For example, a machine costing 4,000 or 5,000 pounds yields an income that exceeds any salary that its owner can get. Seedling planting operations may then be developed, as Japan has done. For example, (several terraces can be built atop each other for growing seedlings).

[Question] What is the impact of this on achieving self-sufficiency in grains?

[Answer] I expect self-sufficiency in grains, excluding wheat. The fact is that the revenues of some exported crops are used to import wheat. As for the other grains in which we do not have self-sufficiency, such as lentils, we have agreed with Pakistan to try two types of local Pakistani grains, namely, (chic peas and monge peas), which are exactly like lentils and are highly productive.

Dr Yusuf Wali asserts that the talk about importation has led to a misconception regarding our food situation. He says that we import nearly 100,000 tons of meat, 90,000 tons of fish and 70,000-80,000 tons of poultry. The chaotic importation has led to the tendency of some importers to import luxury goods, thus giving the import figures a strong boost. As for imported food needs, excluding the protein group, they are relatively limited and centered on the importation of large quantities of sugar, wheat, corn and, to a degree, lentils.

Lentils Cultivated in Lower Egypt for First Time

[Question] This means that the problem of meeting our food needs can be dealt with in the coming period. This is obvious from Dr Yusuf Wali's view, which he always supports with figures. I asked Dr Wali: But will there always be a shortfall in our wheat production?

[Answer] The situation insofar as wheat is concerned can be dealt with in two ways: First, by using modern technology and, second, by developing some

crops that can be cultivated in Egypt to achieve self-sufficiency and a surplus for export that can be utilized to import wheat. For example, as far as developing lentils production is concerned, this year we started lentils cultivation in lower Egypt for the first time, with 700 feddans planted with this crop in al-Sharqiyah Governorate, where the crop has been successful. This is in addition to the new kinds we will get from Pakistan. Thus, it is estimated that we will achieve self-sufficiency in lentils within 4-5 years.

Have Fruits Disappeared or Have Prices Risen?

Regarding the phenomenon of Egyptian bananas and their absence on the market and the poor-quality bananas found on the market, if they are found, Dr Wali agreed that banana production has declined, saying that the Ministry of Agriculture is currently exerting efforts to improve the production quality through foreign strains and that this improvement will require 2 years. As for the other kinds of fruit, they have improved since the 1950's. Citing an example, the minister said that pears are sold by vendors in the streets whereas in the past Egypt imported pears because there was only one pear farm in the entire country. The same goes for plums. All fruits are available, but the problem is that fruit prices are not compatible with incomes. Only citrus fruit prices are affordable at prevailing incomes.

We Take and Give

[Question] Have we given the Asian countries anything or did we go there only to take?

[Answer] Egypt has certain kinds of crops that are not available in other parts of the world and that are unique to Egypt. The countries we visited have asked for crops from Egypt, especially Pakistan. It has asked Egypt for Jizah cotton types 70, 69, 67, 75 and 77. Pakistan has also asked for clover seeds because Egyptian clover is very successful, two strains of Egyptian corn that are superior to U.S. strains, certain types of cantalopes, 500 grapevine seedlings and 500 doses of semen for the artificial insemination of (Friesian) cows. Pakistan has also asked to send two Pakistani citizens to be trained in Egypt on the activities of agricultural cooperatives and agricultural loans, in addition to having an expert trained on crop structure and another trained on fishing in the high seas. We have acquired from Pakistan samples of all the fruits produced there and wheat and rice seeds. They will also supply us with good strains of buffalo, which produce nearly 10,000 liters of milk per head annually. China has asked Egypt for the 'Afifi and Lotus types of Egyptian cotton and Indonesia has asked for certain types of cotton and fruits.

Ministry of Agriculture Is Not Punitive Agency

[Question] At the conclusion of the interview with Dr Yusuf Wali, minister of state for agriculture and food security, we asked him about the ongoing debate concerning the problem and prices of red meats--prices that no longer reflect economic value.

[Answer] The only way to overcome the red meats problem, in Dr Wali's opinion, is to turn to meat alternatives such as poultry, fish, eggs, plant protein and minced meat mixed with legumes. As for poultry, we have conducted an actual on-the-spot survey, not a survey on the basis of records and licenses, and found that there are 12,000 farms in actual operation. This is why we have issued a card in accordance with which each farm, whether licensed or not, receives 100 tons of corn annually. This amount of fodder is enough to operate every farm for five cycles in order to increase production and have the farms operate at maximum capacity.

The minister of supplies has agreed to import 1.3 million tons of corn to meet the needs of the farms and to sell the corn at a subsidized price.

On the other hand, agreement has been reached between the armed forces and the Ministry of Supplies to set up a hamburger plant. This plant will lead to great savings [resulting from reduced meat imports] because 40 percent of the hamburger will consist of soybeans. As for the fish, we import 90,000 tons [annually] but efforts are being exerted to achieve self-sufficiency in fish. We have purchased two fishing boats from Japan which will operate along our coastline. President Mubarak will inspect these boats in May when he visits Marsa Matruh to inaugurate the barley harvesting season.

Moreover, the high-seas fishing fleet has also resumed its operations after a long interruption. This fleet is currently operating in Mauritanian waters. It has caught in its current trip 700 tons of fish. It has also concluded an agreement with Senegal to fish in Senegalese waters. On the other hand, the Port Fu'ad (fish farm) has resumed its production after suspending its operations in the wake of the war. This farm produces al-Buri type of fish. Exerting concerted efforts in the production of all these alternatives is the practical solution to the unrealistic rise in the prices of red meats.

Final Word

Supplying a loaf of bread, a piece of meat and fruit to every citizen is a great duty and a difficult responsibility and is tantamount to man's self-defense against subservience and man's defense of his life against the spectre of starvation. President Mubarak's tour of the Asian countries and his concern with agricultural development in Egypt and the concerted efforts exerted, as usual, by Dr Wali make us say, as we said at the outset of the interview, that the ramifications of President Mubarak's tour will continue to occupy a major part of our attention, and we will continue to follow up on progress in implementation.

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EGYPT

LAWYERS TO CONTINUE BATTLE AGAINST NEW LEGAL PROFESSION LAW

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[Article by Jamal Isma'il: "After Promulgation of New Legal Profession Law in Egypt: New Chapter in Struggle Between Government and Union That Said 'No'"]

[Text] Egypt's ruling party won the second round of its struggle with the Lawyers Union when President Husni Mubarak signed the new legal profession law, which was approved by the People's Assembly despite the opposition of political forces, Lawyers Union branches in the Egyptian governorates and the elected council of the Lawyers Union, which was dissolved by decision of al-Sadat in the summer of 1981.

With President Mubarak signing the new law No 17 of 1983, the curtain has closed on the second chapter of the struggle between the union and the regime. But the struggle itself has not ended and the next few days will witness the details of the third chapter which has begun in the wake of all the efforts seeking to neutralize the institution of the presidency in this struggle.

The third chapter of the struggle between the Lawyers Union and the government began in the morning last Saturday, 3 April 1983, with a 1-hour strike that included all the courts in Cairo and in the governorates. The strike came after 400 lawyers had ended a week-long strike at their union headquarters on 'Abd al-Khaliq Tharwat Street in Cairo in protest of the new law, which prohibits union members from taking part in political activities or conferences and which omits from the original law issued in 1968 a provision urging lawyers to fight imperialism and Zionism.

Moreover, the new law does not give the capital's lawyers, numbering 18,000 out of a total union membership of 40,000, more than one seat in the union council, which has 20 seats. The law thus equates the capital's lawyers with those of any other city, where the number of trained lawyers does not exceed several hundred.

The new law was promulgated after it was approved by ruling party members in the People's Assembly and signed by the president of the republic even though the Supreme Constitutional Court is still examining the appeal

submitted by the union council on the constitutionality of al-Sadat's decision to dissolve their union in 1981.

Start

In the summer of that year, the late President Anwar al-Sadat stood before the People's Assembly to declare that the union council had "exceeded" its boundaries, that it did not deserve to continue to exist and that the conditions in the union had to be changed.

Naturally, the assembly issued a resolution forming a fact-finding committee, and that committee quickly discovered that the late president was right and submitted its report, which reaffirmed the charges that had been levelled by al-Sadat against the elected union council. The People's Assembly issued a resolution dissolving the council and entrusting the minister of justice to form a committee to act as the union's appointed council. The government then started its endeavors to change and amend the legal profession law promulgated in 1968 and to erase all public rights concerned, which had been established by the legal profession laws over a period of more than 70 years. It is perhaps important to point out here that the legal profession law in Egypt has been different from the law of any other professional union because it charts for the union a significant role in national policy.

Within the framework of this role, and because of it, we have sought to be precise. Al-Sadat's struggle with the Lawyers Union and its legitimate council was a part of his struggle with the various political and professional unions and organizations and with the national forces and parties that opposed both his domestic and his foreign policies.

Al-Sadat's decision came in the form of law No 125 of 1981 which dissolved the Lawyers Union Council, thus ending the national role played by the union. The decision violated article 56 of the Egyptian constitution which states that the formation of unions and federations on a democratic basis is a right guaranteed by law. This provision means that organizations are formed through a legislative instrument, namely, the law, and not through any other instrument, such as a presidential or ministerial decree.

It is no secret to anybody that the national role played by the Egyptian Lawyers Union is a role that has turned into a stronghold of patriotism and a bastion to which the people turn. This role emerged clearly under al-Sadat's administration, thus disturbing the government and motivating it to deprive the union of the law, which defines the framework of its activities in Egyptian society, and of its influence at the Arab level in general.

It is perhaps worth pointing out in this respect that the Lawyers Union was the organization that burned Israel's flag and raised the Palestinian flag when al-Sadat signed the peace treaty with Israel. The union stood firm, fighting the normalization attempts and creating such an uproar over the issue of conveying Nile water to the Zionist entity that the government had to back down on this issue. The union also watched for all the special laws

issued under al-Sadat's administration, including the law of shame, which it fought, refuting its violations against the constitution. The union also spared no effort in forming national committees to defend liberties and advance solidarity with detainees. The September 1981 arrest list abounded with the names of hundreds of lawyers, led by the late 'Abd al-Aziz al-Shurbaji, the lawyers doyen, who appeared before the socialist public prosecutor in July 1981 charged with instigating the overthrow of the regime by force during the late president's administration. Al-Shurbaji was foremost among those who rejected Camp David. A family carrying his name was formed in the Lawyers Union and his funeral procession turned into a national demonstration in which representatives of the various Egyptian currents and forces participated, with all those representatives asserting that matters are inseparable and that the legitimate elected union council was the real and true representative of the Egyptian lawyers.

However, al-Sadat issued his decision to dissolve the union council and the struggle intensified between the government and the council, whose chairman, Ahmad al-Khawajah, declared that as a legal-status person, the union's instruments of decision must emanate from democratic bases, meaning that the union's decision makers had to be elected voluntarily. Al-Khawaja added that those individuals had been dismissed from their position of the government's decision and that this was a violation of the constitution and of the law.

New Administration

This situation did not last long because the famous day of 6 October 1981 and the stand incident [al-Sadat assassination] quickly followed and the lawyers attached optimistic hopes to the new administration and to President Mubarak, who began by abolishing the September arrest decisions and releasing the detainees. Then the lawyers began their struggle against those who harbor them and their union ill will.

The lawyers and their elected council launched a large-scale campaign to lift and eliminate the traces of the transgression committed against their union.

The lawyers held tens of conferences in Cairo and in the governorates and it was obvious that the branch unions from Alexandria in the north to Aswan in the south rejected the transgression, demanded the reinstatement of the legitimate council and saw no need to amend or change their law.

In August 1982, the Administrative Court issued a decision stating that it was necessary to file a lawsuit on the unconstitutionality of the law issued under al-Sadat's administration. Accordingly, Ahmad al-Khawajah, the elected Lawyers Union chairman, filed suit before the Supreme Constitutional Court contesting the constitutionality of law No 125 of 1981, which abolished the elected and legitimate Lawyers Union Council and entrusted the minister of justice to appoint a substitute council. Participating in the lawsuit with the union chairman were lawyers Muhammad 'Alwan, Mahmud 'Abd al-Hamid Sulayman, Muhammad 'Id, Muhammad Fahim, Muhammad al-Masari,

Hamid al-Azhari, Muhammad Sabri Mubadda, Ahmad Nabil al-Hilali and 'Abd al-'Aziz Muhammad.

On 1 November 1982, union chairman Ahmad al-Khawajah and the elected council members delivered a message to the presidential office demanding the restoration of legitimacy to the union and stating:

"We will not, Mr President, be overstepping the truth and what is right when we say that the Lawyers Union position toward the issues of public liberties generally and toward Zionist ambitions in particular was the direct reason for ending the term of the chairman and members of the union's council." Ahmad al-Khawajah says that the conflict is not between the union and the government because the government is appointed and dismissed but between the union and the People's Assembly and "all of us know how this assembly came about."

On the other hand, 'Abd al-'Aziz Muhammad, elected union council member, addressed a similar message to President Husni Mubarak asserting that the legal profession, which is a message of right, a necessity for the judiciary and an aid to the oppressed, cannot be so unless it stands straight, strong, capable and independent and unless a democratic body is in charge of its organization.

Lawyer 'Abd al-'Aziz Muhammad has urged the president of the republic to restore right to the legal profession and lawyers and legitimacy to the union and to abolish law No 125 of 1981, "this law that is enough to blacken the face of an entire generation." In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, 'Abd al-'Aziz Muhammad said that the lawyers' voices have risen from one end of the country to the other demanding legitimacy and sovereignty of the law in a union of justice. He added that the State Council ruled to abrogate the unconstitutional law issued in 1981 and that the president of the republic must intervene to correct every violation unjustly committed against the people's right and destiny.

In another statement, Ahmad al-Khawajah, the elected union chairman, said that the Lawyers Union was not against peace but against Israel because peace and Israel cannot mean the same thing. Moreover, the union council refused to raise Israel's flag over the Lawyers Union and raised the Palestinian flag because it considered and still considers Israel the Arab nation's enemy. This has been proven by time and experience.

Total Disregard

Despite all of these endeavors and efforts, the struggle surrounding the Lawyers Union crisis continued to rage. The People's Assembly began its sessions to discuss the new bill presented by only five lawyers, who are members of the ruling party, without consultation with the elected union council and without paying any attention to the majority of Egyptian lawyers or to their general assembly, which is entitled to present and discuss such bills. This was done with the aim of imposing a new law representing a partisan viewpoint and seeking to appoint a council consisting of members who belong to the ruling National Party.

The warning voices continued to rise, coming from various leaders and figures of the Egyptian national movement, led by Fathi Radwan, who urged the lawyers in this respect to boycott the "hearings" held by the People's Assembly and who said verbatim:

"Al-Sadat dared dissolve the Lawyers Union Council with a law passed by the People's Assembly and in the wake of a report by a fact-finding committee, which expressed the opinion that the union council deserved to be dissolved because it expressed on public affairs opinions that did not agree with those of the rulers and did not satisfy his political doctrines or his method of government. When al-Sadat departed to his God, I imagined that the new president would discover that the decision to dissolve the council elected for the lawyers and by the lawyers is an act that is primarily null and void, that is harmful to the homeland second and that is an aggression against the law third, but..."

The People's Assembly approved the new law No 17 of 1983 and there were still hopes that President Husni Mubarak would intervene and put an end to the intensifying crisis.

The lawyers hastened to call a meeting of their general assembly and Ibrahim Shukri, the Labor Party chairman, contacted the Egyptian president before the president's Asian tour asking him to postpone signing the legal profession law until after his return to Cairo. Mumtaz Nassar, a lawyer and a People's Assembly member, also met with Dr Fu'ad Muhyi al-Din, the prime minister. Cables of support were sent by the Journalists Union, Egyptian university professors, the unions of students of the law colleges and the teaching facilities of Cairo and 'Ayn Shams Universities to the elected union council. In a plenary session, the lawyers renewed their support for the elected council and for their chairman, Ahmad al-Khawajah.

Lawyer Farid 'Abd al-Karim says that the issue is fundamentally an issue of democracy and of the freedom of this country. The law issued recently has struck a blow to the concept of the union's nationalism and has abolished from among its goals the provision of fighting imperialism and Zionism. Moreover, the new law depends on a legitimacy that is rejected to start with and does not at all rely on an objective legitimacy. This puts the law in the same category as laws conflicting with liberties and democracy.

To put it briefly, the consensus among the lawyers is that the promulgation of the new law is proof that al-Sadat's establishment, which produced 'Ismat al-Sadat, Tawfiq 'Abd al-Hayy, Rashad 'Uthman and others who have corrupted the political life and plundered Egypt's wealth, is still in power.

After signing the new law, President Mubarak left Cairo and began his Asian tour, leaving the arena open to confrontation between the lawyers and the government. The judiciary arena will witness the first round of this confrontation when the Supreme Constitutional Court examines the appeal presented by the elected council against the law issued by al-Sadat in the summer of 1981.

The court was scheduled to examine this appeal on the fifth of last month but the case has been postponed to a later date when Egypt is expected to see the details of the third chapter in the struggle that may bring about unpredictable developments.

PAPERS EXAMINE RENEWAL OF CPI-M, CCP TIES

Independence of Parties

Madras THE HINDU in English 30 Apr 83 p 8

[Text]

THE current visit of three top leaders of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) — Mr. E. M. S. Namboodiripad, Mr. M. Basavapunniah and Mr. H. S. Surjeet — to China has resulted in the re-establishment of links between the Chinese Communist Party and the CPI (M) after a break of 16 years. Some are inclined to believe that the restoration of ties between the world's largest communist party and the CPI (M) may have an impact not only on their mutual relations but also *inter se* on the communist movement in India as a whole.

The assumption is based on the argument that the communist movement in India, nay everywhere in the world, is still under the tutelage of either Moscow or Beijing. Developments in India over the past two or three decades, however, do not lend credence to such a facile assumption.

It is quite obvious that because of the international character of the communist movement, the CPI (M) as well as the CPI would like to maintain fraternal links with communist parties in the world. This desire is more particularly pronounced in respect of the communist parties in the world's two largest socialist States, the Soviet Union and China. But the CPI (M) or the CPI does not appear to have mortgaged its independence to any other communist party.

Break of contacts

Formal contacts between the CPI (M) and the CPC snapped in 1967 following a fusillade of abusive epithets directed against the former by the Chinese press and radio. On the one hand, Radio Beijing chose the strongest of invectives to deride the CPI (M) as a lackey of "social imperialists" and counter-revolutionaries, and on the other hailed the naxalites as the harbinger of a genuine revolution.

But long before Beijing mounted its propaganda offensive against the CPI (M), relations between the two had begun to cool off. The perceptions of the two parties of the Indian situation and the character of the Indian ruling class were sharply at variance. This was not a post-1962 phenomenon when the two countries were involved in hostilities over territorial claims, but not much was known to the public earlier as communist leaders in India were not yet prepared for open criticism of the Chinese.

For several years before and after the Bandung summit of 1954, the CPC continued to take the stand that the Nehru Government was an important factor in the fight against colonialism and was also leading the progressive sections of the Indian bourgeoisie, and therefore deserved the cooperation of all. But large sections of communists in India did not agree with the characterisation of the Nehru Government's domestic policies.

Palghat line

At the Palghat Congress of the undivided CPI in April, 1956, two-thirds of the delegates opted for a line which called for the mobilisation of the people against the policies of the Nehru Government. Only a third of the participants were in favour of collaboration with it. Ironically those whose views at Palghat coincided with the CPC analysis later formed the CPI, which eventually became bitterly critical of China.

In November, 1957, Mr. Basavapunniah and the late Bupesh Gupta were in Moscow for the 40th anniversary of the October Revolution. Mao Zedong was also at the Soviet capital on the same occasion. The Indian communist leaders sought an exchange of views with the Chinese communist chief, but as Mao was unable to extend his stay in Moscow he advised them to

come over to Beijing for a tete-a-tete, which they did.

Mr. Basavapunnaiiah recalls that the discussions in Beijing revealed a sharp difference in the assessment of the Indian situation between them and the CPC leaders. A

short while later, the late Ajoy Ghosh, then General Secretary of the CPI, was also in Beijing. He was so impressed by the suggestion of collaboration with the Nehru Government that he came back home to tell Nehru that the Chinese might, as a gesture of goodwill accept the McMahon line to settle the boundary question.

Sharp differences

Later developments came as a shock to Nehru as well as to many communists. For a while sections of those who later formed the CPI (M) thought that the border incidents had been blown up beyond reasonable proportions to sour Sino-Indian relations but the differences between the CPC and the CPI (M) became sharper on ideological issues. For a long time, however, they refrained from voicing open criticism of the Chinese.

But in October, 1963, shortly before the CPI split, the National Council adopted a resolution on the ideological question, which was probably the first party document to differ openly with the Chinese and Soviet assessment of the Indian situation. Within weeks of this resolution, several leading party functionaries including Mr. P. Ramamurti, Mr. P. Sundarayya, Mr. M. Basavapunnaiiah, Mr. H. S. Surjeet, Mr. Jyoti Basu and the late A. K. Gopalan drew up a lengthy document, which they called their "contribution to the ideological debate".

Pointing out that "the sharp differences in the world communist movement are not of recent origin but date back to the 20th Congress of the CPSU", the "contribution" said: "We would like to bring to your notice that on some of the concrete questions such as the characterisation of the present Indian State, the nature of the present government and its leadership, we have some differences and serious reservations with the positions taken by the CPC as well as the CPSU in some of their documents".

After the split in the communist movement in India in 1964, those who formed the CPI (M) were generally identified as pro-Chinese and the residual CPI was thought to be more loyal to the CPSU than Soviet cardholders themselves. In spite of their differences with the CPC, sections of the CPI (M) continued to believe in the superiority of the Chinese understanding of marxist dialectics because of their revolutionary experience.

Some of these communists deified Mao and went to the extent of declaring that China's chairman was their chairman. These elements, led for some time by the late Charu Mazumdar, were eventually expelled from the CPI (M) and came to be known commonly as naxalites. The naxalite movement later split into many fragments on

ideological issues. The mainstream of the CPI (M) drifted farther from the CPC which eulogised the naxalites.

No illusions

In the years following the Sino-Indian border conflict, differences between the CPC and the CPSU became sharper but both tended to look upon the Indian communist movement as their protege. The CPI (M) Central Committee at a meeting in Madurai in August 1967 formally recorded its protest against the bossism of the two "parent" communist parties and boldly asserted its independence of both the CPSU and the CPC.

"The relations between fraternal communist parties and the Marxist-Leninist principle that should guide these relations", said the CPI (M) resolution, "are a very important question. In theory all appear to accept that all communist parties are independent and equal, that there should be

no false idea of so-called high ranking and subordinate parties, that there can be no interference in the internal affairs of other parties and that they should build their party-to-party relations on the basis of proletarian internationalism and mutual assistance.

"But in actual life and experience this salutary principle is often violated, and such violations, when they take place, from big parties and parties in State power, become all the more grave, striking hard at the very principle of independence and equality of fraternal communist parties."

Barbed attack

The resolution did not stop at this but in a barbed attack on the CPSU and the CPC went on to say: "The glaring example is the leadership of the CPSU, after its 20th Congress, which began to assert that its thesis is the programme for the entire world communist movement, and used and is using all its might to force it on every other party in the world.

"Another big communist party, the CPC, which correctly pointed out and fought against this dangerous tendency on the part of the CPSU leaders and is bearing the main brunt of fighting modern revisionism, is also sometimes found to disregard this principle.

"Our party, while modest enough to learn from the achievements and mistakes of all other fraternal parties of the world, should guard itself against any such outside interference and jealously defend its independence and its independent political line. Any departure from this sound principle would prove disastrous to the unity, growth and progress of our party."

No wonder from then on the CPI (M) had to plough a lonely furrow. Its links with both the CPC and the CPSU ceased and its international contacts were confined to some small communist parties like the Workers' Party of Romania, which also was jealously trying to guard its right to take independent decisions against pressures from the bigger parties. In spite of provocations, however, the CPI (M) did not pay the

~~CPC~~ back in kind and framed its criticism in non-abusive words.

Restoration of ties

The CPI (M) leadership is of the view that since the ties were broken by the CPC, the initiative for their restoration would have to be taken by the CPC itself. In the seven years since the death of Mao, Chinese policies have undergone many changes. Despite occasional bursts of abuse, the attempt to rebuild bridges with the Soviet Union is on. Some attempts to deal with the Sino-Indian boundary question have also been made.

The CPC has stopped paying attention to naalites and signs of a thaw in its attitude towards the CPI (M) became visible in 1979. The first important indication was the offer to Mr. P. Ramamurti, Mr. A. Balanandan and Mrs. Godavari Parulekar to spend a week in China on their way back from Pyongyang to India. Earlier CPI (M) leaders had enthusiastically lined up with others in extending a cordial welcome to a Chinese goodwill mission led by Mr. Wang Bingnan which visited India in March 1978.

In mid-1979 the late Jyotirmoy Bosu, though not a top-notch in the CPI (M) hierarchy but one of its most effective spokesmen in Parliament, visited China in his capacity as vice-president of the Kotnis Memorial Committee. About a year later, Mr. Saroj Mukherjee, now general secretary of the CPI (M)'s West Bengal unit, and his wife, Mrs. Kanak Mukherjee, M.P., responded to an invitation to visit China.

The Chinese made further gestures by inviting Mr. Samar Mukherjee and Mr. Basavapunniah, both members of the Politburo, in 1980 to visit China. Like Mr. Ramamurti and his two colleagues they also were on their way back from the North Korean Communist Party Congress. The late Promode Das Gupta was also in China for medical care. He died there in December last year.

Significance

The visit of Mr. Namboodiripad, Mr. Basavapunniah and Mr. Surjeet is, however, the first to be made in response to a formal invitation from the Central Committee of the CPC. This lends it more than usual significance. The CPI (M) has rejected the theory of the superiority of any party, and there is no reason to suspect that the restoration of ties between it and the CPC would in any way impinge on its freedom.

Reports from Beijing say that Mr. Namboodiripad, in his talks with Mr. Hu Yaobang, the CPC leader, stressed the right of every communist party to adopt strategies to suit its national interests. The CPI, despite its close links with the CPSU, no more accepts Moscow as the centre of the international communist movement.

Both the CPI and the CPI (M) — neither of them formally recognises the other as a true communist party — have come close in recent years. Even though the stage has not arrived when they can think of extinguishing their separate identities, there is no reason to suspect that the revival of links between the CPI (M) and the CPC will draw the CPI away from the CPI (M).

Champion of peace

Following the split in the communist movement in India in 1964, the Soviet Communist Party has maintained contacts with the CPI and has not established any formal links with the CPI (M). In recent years, however, relations between the CPI (M) and Soviet communist leaders have improved. The CPI (M) on its part recognises the Soviet Union as a champion of peace and anti-colonialism, and has even endorsed Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

The CPI has shed some of its hostility towards the CPC. No direct attack on the Chinese Party has been mouthed by CPI leaders for some time, even though they have serious differences with China on the Kampuchean and other questions. *New Age*, official organ of the CPI, has not in recent months carried any diatribe against the Chinese except reproducing a couple of articles from Soviet and Vietnamese journals.

Of the three CPI (M) leaders visiting China, Mr. Basavapunniah has dealt with the Chinese more than the other two. Apart from his talks with Mao in 1957, he has been to China on two other occasions. He does not seem to nurse any illusion that the restoration of ties will yield any dramatic results. He looks at the exercise as part of the process to restore unity in the world communist movement. No one has any illusions that the Sino-Indian border dispute will be anywhere nearer a solution as a result of the CPI (M) leaders' visit.

Nitish Chakravarty

Vindication of CPI-M Policy

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 30 Apr 83 p 8

[Text] The outcome of the CPI(M) delegation's visit to China must have been gratifying for the Indian Marxists, but not because they are seeking a new political link to initiate, endorse or strengthen a reorientation of policy. Re-establishment of party-to-party relations with the Chinese Communists would rather be seen by the CPI(M), at least for the present, as a vindication of the policy it has followed so far and as significant international recognition of its importance. "Fraternal relations" with other parties are still valued by Communists as a symbol of "proletarian internationalism," if not also for more tangible support. And despite all that has been said in recent years about the disappearance or unacceptability of any international guiding centre, formal recognition by either of the two Communist giants--now it can even be obtained from both--is still the hallmark of respectability that other parties aspire to. The Chinese decision satisfies the CPI(M)'s desire on both counts; Mr Namboodiripad and his colleagues can also claim that if this development has entailed any change in assessment or opinion it has been on China's part. After all, it was the Chinese who denounced the CPI(M) after the emergence of the Naxalities. The Marxists' policy has not become more pro-Chinese since; if anything, it has in recent years moved closer to Moscow's on several important international issues.

Nor can the renewal of party ties be seen as a victory for any pro-Chinese faction in the CPI(M) leadership; most of the party's present leaders, including the three who went to Beijing have been actively associated with what has been widely seen as its recent pro-Soviet policy formulations. Why did then the Chinese agree to restore party relations at this stage? It would be premature to conclude that this reflects in any way a change in their attitude towards the Soviet Union. A simpler, and more likely, explanation is that they thought it was time to re-establish a link with Indian Communists, and the CPI(M) was the obvious choice--it being the strongest group, the Naxalites being a confused medley of small factions and the CPI willingly disqualifying itself by its allegiance to Moscow. Beijing may also hope that the link would in course of time, induce some change in the CPI(M)'s thinking on international questions which divide them at present. Possibly it is aware that there is some disagreement even within the CPI(M), that at least some members of the Central Committee and a larger number at lower levels, have not been quite happy at the way the party, at the instance of the majority in the Politbureau, lent prompt and virtually unqualified support to the Soviet and Vietnamese positions on Afghanistan and Kampuchea. Yet the Chinese must also be shrewd enough to know that no immediate change is possible; the CPI(M) leaders too, have tried to discourage any expectation. However, even some circumspection in CPI(M) pronouncements might be a small gain for Beijing.

Against this background, any cooling off in the Marxists' informal exchanges with the Russians seems unlikely. Short of formally recognizing the CPI(M) which they cannot do so long as the CPI remains the recognized party in India, the Russians would probably do all they can to preserve and strengthen

friendly contacts with the Marxists. They must be anxious to ensure such political gain, in the context of the Indian Left, as they have obtained from the CPI(M)'s support on controversial international issues is not neutralized by the latter's relations with the Chinese. The CPI's attitude will be determined largely by Moscow's response, but some misgivings are likely to persist. Some of Mr Rajeswara Rao's party colleagues who have viewed his policy of closer cooperation with the Marxists with not a little unease may even claim that their suspicions have been confirmed. Much, however, will depend on what the CPI(M) leaders say and do by way of further clarification of their position. But there can be nothing to reassure the Naxalites; even fresh attacks on the "revisionist" Deng Xiaoping regime might seem fruitless.

CPI-M Leadership's Reaction

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 May 83 p 20

[Text] Calcutta, May 1--A typical reaction among the CPM leaders here, after the restoration of their relationship with the Communist Party of China, is that unless one remains strong, one tends to get ignored.

To them this development has not been unexpected, and must have taken place after the CPC's full appreciation of the CPM's national and international policies as well as the points of difference and the apparent tilt in the party's outlook towards Moscow at its Vijayawada congress last year.

The CPM leaders deny the CPI's understanding of his development as one end of an incongruity in the Marxists' international orientation, implying thereby that after all, there has been a sizeable chunk of the CPM leadership feeling more akin to China than Moscow.

But one interesting point about the CPM in this context should be kept in mind. Even about a year ago, some CPM leaders were heard saying that the CPC positions, nationally and internationally, had been changing so very rapidly that they should wait longer for a reassessment of China's overall stance.

The CPM leaders explain that since 1964 they have sought to develop a strategy and tactics of their choice not taking the cue from any of the international communist giants because they believe world conditions are getting too complicated to allow any of these centres to have a better understanding of another country than what a Marxist-Leninist party locally can have.

Even otherwise, there has been a distinct trend towards multi-polar development. West European communist parties no longer accept totally Moscow's views on issues and neither does Moscow try to impose these on others. In the Indian context, the main point of division in the communist movement relates to the characterisation of the Congress(I) and its government.

The developments in 1975-76 further emphasised this difference. The CPI and Moscow supported the promulgation of the emergency. The CPM did not. Since then, of course, the CPM has been having informal contacts or talks with

the Communist Party of the Soviet Union at different levels off and one but then it is said on several recent occasions the other side has been found to be getting reticent after a stage.

Whether the Beijing development will now cool off the informal relationship with the CPSU is one aspect on which the CPM leaders refuse to speculate. On the other hand, some of them give the hint that the CPSU might have been kept informed of the CPM progress with CPC and that there has been no adverse reaction. The guarded reaction of the CPI leaders also tends to suggest that the issue may still remain open for quite some time.

It is, therefore, wrong to suggest, as the CPI leaders tend to imply, that the Beijing development means a victory for the pro-China elements within the CPM. Of course, this has been moral booster for them.

However, about one thing the local CPM leaders appear to be having some misgivings. This relates to the growing relationship with the CPI, as the spherehead for the Left and Democratic Front slogan. The CPM is not unaware of the continued presence within the CPI of elements who are mentally with the AICP.

CSO: 4600/1117

PAKISTAN ENVOY TELLS HOPES FOR BETTER RELATIONS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 3 May 83 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, May 2--With less than four weeks to go for the first-ever meeting of the Indo-Pakistani Joint Commission and the three sub-commissions, envisaged under the scheme of the commission, the Pakistani Ambassador here, Mr Riaz Piracha, today expressed the hope that the inter-Ministerial commission would be able to help remove the misgivings and mistrust that have plagued relations between the two countries.

In an exclusive interview, Mr Piracha envisaged--"all going well"---that the meeting of the Commission in Islamabad which will be attended by the Foreign Ministers of the two countries would lead to easier travel, better trade, improved communications and, generally, to an atmosphere of relaxed neighbourliness.

Mr Piracha, a former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan and one of his country's most senior career diplomats, said there was so much the two countries stood to gain by building up mutual trust that all other considerations faded into insignificance. True, there were problems--he named only the Kashmir issue as unresolved--but "we do not have any other serious outstanding issue." There were no other bilateral issues and "I fail to understand why we should continue to be arguing when actually we should be trying to understand each other," he said in reply to a question.

He was particularly upset by the strident poises being made in this country occasionally on "one trifling matter or the other...We are both members of the non-aligned movement which presupposes certain things, like our being not involved in big power politics, yet we find that time and again we are being labelled as allies of one grouping. Is this fair. But do not let it appear as if I am apportioning blame. That's not my intention. I want that our two countries should come closer. We should try to understand each other. We have so much to gain."

He refused to be drawn into controversy over his country's proposed membership of the Commonwealth in the context of an interview granted by Mrs Gandhi to a Western newspaper in which she objected to Pakistan being readmitted to the Commonwealth. He remarked: "Well, you will find us there whenever the doors are opened to us." He declined to answer the question whether Indian

fears that Pakistan would use the Commonwealth forum to air bilateral problems were well-founded and said that "we stand by our bilateral commitments."

Mr Piracha is upset by suggestions in a section of the Indian Press that Pakistan is overly or covertly trying to encourage the Sikh agitation in Punjab. "I did not realize we were that strong that we could influence happenings in such a powerful country as India," he said.

He hoped the Joint Commission meeting and the meetings of the three sub-commissions would help the two countries understand each other better.

Some of the issues which the sub-commissions would be expected to come to grips with would be less cumbersome procedures like the issue of visas for travel, tourism, cultural exchanges, trade, an exchange of information and communications.

Mr Piracha hinted at the possibility of group travel on an organized basis under the auspices of the Indian Tourism Development Corporation and the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation.

The Joint Commission meeting would not only help the two countries discuss the issues listed on the agenda but the Foreign Ministers could go even beyond and take up other issues of mutual interest. It was hoped that the meeting would help carry forward the dialogue between the two countries on the Pakistan and Indian proposal of a no-war pact or a treaty of friendship and cooperation as the Indians wanted it. "I feel we have reached a stage when we should stop arguing and try to understand," Mr Piracha said.

By a happy coincidence, Mr Piracha noted the Foreign Ministers of his country and India would have the opportunity to meet again within less than two months of the meeting of the Joint Commission at the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the region for mutual cooperation.

CSO: 4600/1122

INDIA

INDIA PLEDGES AID TO UN FUND FOR AFRICA

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 4 May 83 p 3

[Text] Addis Ababa, May 3 (PTI)--India has pledged the largest amount at the fourth biennial conference for the United Nations trust fund for African development here.

The Indian pledge include Rs 3.1 million as machinery and equipment for the African Regional Centre for Engineering, Design and Manufacture (ARCADEM) based in Nigeria, about Rs 35 lakhs for the engineering industry development programme in eastern and southern regions of this continent and about Rs 25 lakh for the project pertaining to the development of technologies relevant to the problems and needs of rural African population.

Besides this pledge, India also announced at the conference held yesterday 25 fellowships for in-service training under it for ECA-sponsored personnel.

The Indian pledge was greeted at the conference with tremendous applause and the Indian delegation was later warmly congratulated by representatives of a number of countries.

The conference followed the 25th silver jubilee session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) which has its headquarters here.

The session was attended by leaders of several African countries including Kenya's President Daniel Arap Moi who regretted tendency among many African countries to buy manufactured and semi-processed commodities from developed countries even when they were readily available in neighbouring African countries.

In his view, some of the problems faced by Africa today were not due to external forces alone but had been created by Africans themselves.

CSO: 4600/1124

DELEGATE SPEAKS AT KUALA LUMPUR MEET ON PALESTINE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 5 May 83 p 3

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, May 4 (PTI)--India today expressed confidence that the struggle of the Palestinian people for their inalienable rights and in "resisting Israel's settler colonialism and state terrorism" would culminate in their final victory.

Speaking as representative of India and of Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi in her capacity as chairperson of the nonaligned movement, Mr P.V. Narisimha Rao told the Asian Conference on Palestine here today that despite negative developments like the invasion of Lebanon in the last year, "there is reason for optimism."

Nonaligned solidarity with Palestine's nationalism and aspirations had remained steadfast as was again demonstrated at the Delhi Summit in March. The right of the Palestinian people and the role of the Palestine Liberation Organisation have come increasingly to be widely recognised, even in non-traditional quarter, Mr Rao said.

He noted in this connection that West European states had joined the overwhelming majority of the international community in censuring Israel's settlements policy, violation of basic human rights and attempts to make Jerusalem its capital.

"Many of them have also underlined the necessity of associating the PLO in any negotiation for a solution of the problem," he pointed out.

Fez Plan Supported

Mr Rao expressed support for the plan adopted by the recent Arab Summit in Fez and said if it was implemented in the right spirit, it could lead to a lasting and just peace in West Asia.

Like most of the other delegates at the plenary session today, the Indian Foreign Minister emphasised that the right of the Palestinian people to establish an independent state of their own should be accepted and the PLO recognised as the sole representative of the Palestinian people in any West Asia negotiations.

Referring to the complexities of the problem, he mentioned that the people of Palestine had become "the victims of international power plays."

Without naming any country specifically, he said "More recently the search for staging facilities in the context of the expansion of military presence in the Indian Ocean has been a boon for Israel which has enthusiastically sought to portray itself as a reliable pillar for such schemes.

In these calculations, the Palestinians and others opposed to Israel's policies were regarded as obstacles. Some powerful sections of the international community have, accordingly, chosen either to acquiesce in Israel's actions, or to concentrate only on the humanitarian aspects as if the problem was merely that of refugees.

CSO: 4600/1130

PAPER REPORTS DEVELOPMENTS IN PUNJAB SITUATION

Ultimatum to Akalis

Madras THE HINDU in English 29 Apr 83 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, April 28--The Punjab crisis deepened further today when the Home Minister, Mr P.C. Sethi, told Parliament that a virtual ultimatum had been given to the Akali leadership to surrender the culprits taking shelter in the Golden Temple within a week or face drastic action by the Government for apprehending them.

The Akali Dal chief, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, issued a statement in Amritsar calling upon the Sikhs to be prepared to face bullets, if necessary, to safeguard the sanctity of the Golden Temple.

The Home Minister said, in reply to a calling attention motion in the Rajya Sabha, that the Government had written to the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabhandak Committee (SGPC) authorities in charge of the Golden Temple to hand over the alleged assailant who killed the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Mr A.S. Atwal and the self-styled Secretary-General of the so-called National Council of Khalistan, Mr Balbir Singh Sandhu, who has been preaching open sedition from the holy premises, along with other criminals who were taking shelter at Guru Nanak Niwas within the precincts of the Temple.

The Government would have to take drastic action if the activities of these persons posed a threat to the security and integrity of the nation.

Prepared for Talks

In his prepared statement, Mr Sethi said the Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, was prepared to talk to the Akali chief, Sant Longowal, to settle the Punjab problem. He said the Government was prepared to meet all the reasonable demands of the Sikhs but would oppose any separatist bid at all costs in the national interest.

The Home Minister indicated that fresh moves would be made for resumption of the talks to settle the territorial demands after the return of the Chief Minister of Haryana, Mr Bhajan Lal, tomorrow from the United States where he had gone for medical treatment. But he did not say at what stage the Prime Minister would come into the picture to arrive at a final settlement.

Advani's Charge

The Bharatiya Janata Party leader, Mr L.K. Advani, who gave notice of the calling attention motion along with some other members, accused the Congress (I) of creating this tragic situation in Punjab by first placating the Dal Khalsa extremists when the party was in opposition and now avoiding strong action in the face of the threats to the very integrity of the nation. He said the Punjab Government was not functioning effectively as it was caught up inextricably in the crosscurrents of the present Akali agitation.

The Home Minister initially said in a general way that, if the activities of persons taking shelter in the Golden Temple complex posed a threat to national security and integrity, the Government would have to take suitable action. It was only after Mr Advani made the charge that the Government was not acting firmly to curb this terrorism that Mr Sethi came forward with the disclosure that the Golden Temple authorities had been given a virtual ultimatum to hand over the suspects wanted by the police within a week or face the consequences.

But he did not say whether this ultimatum had been given by the Punjab Government or the Central Government. The obvious inference drawn by the members was that the Centre, which had been in constant touch with the top Akali leaders through some intermediaries had conveyed the threat of drastic action if the suspects were not handed over soon.

It did not necessarily imply that the police would enter the Golden Temple premises after the expiry of the one-week time limit in search of the suspects with orders to use force in the event of resistance.

The Akalis being what they are it is too dreadful to contemplate what could happen if the police entered the Temple area in strength and the armed sewadars guarding the holy precincts decided to resist them. It is highly unlikely that the Centre would precipitate such a situation unless it was compelled by further acts of violence to take such drastic action.

It was not without significance that Mr Sethi himself stressed in his prepared statement that the situation in Punjab, bad as it was, was not very grave, although it could become explosive any time. The implication of this remark was that the Government did not consider the situation serious enough to resort to strong action since the whole effort was still for a negotiated settlement.

President's Rule Not Planned

Madras THE HINDU in English 2 May 83 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, May 1--The Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, who was on a one-day visit to Lucknow today, denied in Lucknow that the Centre was thinking of bringing Punjab under President's rule in view of the disturbed conditions there.

But the denial has its own significance in the sense that the Central leadership continues to back the Chief Minister, Mr Darbara Singh, despite the mounting campaign within the party for his replacement.

Otherwise, it does not really matter whether the present Government in Punjab is retained or President's rule imposed, since the administration is being run from Delhi for all practical purposes. All important decisions for dealing with the Akali agitation are taken in Delhi in consultation with the Chief Minister, as and when necessary, or even independently without his knowledge.

Dissidents Active

A consequence of the anomalous situation is that the dissident Ministers in Mr Darbara Singh's Cabinet feel encouraged to proceed on the assumption that by exerting some more pressure they might succeed in compelling the Centre to replace him. A lot of damage is thus being done by the continued uncertainty about the Chief Minister's fate since the Central leadership has not been taking any steps to curb factionalism or concede the demand of dissidents.

Man of Integrity

The loose talk of a Congress (I) Akali coalition by some self-appointed intermediaries claiming to be quite close to the Prime Minister or her son has also added to the prevailing political confusion in Punjab, the obvious inference being that the Central leadership would be prepared to sacrifice Mr Darbara Singh if his exit would help bring about a settlement of the Akali agitation. Though he is not a very tactful person, Mr Darbara Singh is at least a man of proven integrity with an unblemished personal reputation, who has been a staunch Congressman all his life unlike many other Congress (I) politicians with Akali links in the past.

A sad feature of the Akali agitation has been that instead of uniting the Congress (I) in Punjab, it has sharpened the factionalism in the ruling party with the result that the State Government has not been able to display the necessary firmness in dealing with it. Consequently, the initiative for tackling the agitation has passed into the hands of the Centre with the Chief Minister playing only a proxy role.

The fact that Mr Darbara Singh has ceased to be a central figure in the complex negotiations with the Akalis--and in the process he has been progressively equated with the Chief Ministers of Haryana and Rajasthan--has made his position more and more untenable. He has become increasingly unacceptable not only to the Akalis but also to some of his Cabinet colleagues who have been pressing for his exit.

"Stumbling Block"

In dealing with the Punjab crisis, the Centre has not been paying due attention to this aspect of the situation. The result is that both the Akalis and Congress (I) dissidents for entirely different reasons, have been looking upon Mr Darbara Singh as a stumbling block to an early settlement. The attempt to involve other Sikh leaders in the negotiations, while he is still there as Chief Minister has been equally counter-productive, since they have been no less unhappy over the Centre's refusal to jettison him in these circumstances.

In the absence of proper advice from the State Government, the Union Home Minister, Mr P.C. Sethi, has been playing hot and cold, talking sternly one day of strong action against the Akalis and caving in the next day in the face of their open defiance by disavowing his virtual ultimatum to them. The Prime Minister also has been adding to the confusion by raising the bogey of foreign encouragement to the Akali agitation, when she should be paying greater attention to the elimination of the internal weaknesses that were emboldening the hardliners among the Akalis to adopt intransigent attitudes.

There is no single authority at the Centre, whether it is the Prime Minister or the Home Minister, who has the time or determination to give undivided attention to the Punjab problem. The Centre is unable to take an integral view of all aspects without yielding to the compulsions of attempting to tackle them compartmentally with no proper correlation.

The Congress (I) has been blaming not only unnamed foreign powers but also the Opposition parties for the Punjab crisis, forgetting conveniently that it had also placated the Akalis from time to time in pursuit of its own political interests in the State. And the Congress (I) has been as involved as the Opposition parties in the factional politics of the Akalis who are no less riven by political rivalries and personal ambitions.

Gandhi in Lucknow

Madras THE HINDU in English 2 May 83 p 9

[Text]

LUCKNOW, May 1.

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, today reiterated her Government's resolve to settle the Akali problem through negotiations and denied any move to impose President's rule on Punjab.

In talks with reporters at Lucknow airport this morning and later at Rae Bareilly, the Prime Minister touched on the Punjab situation which she described as "sensitive".

The Prime Minister emphasised that her Government had not served any "ultimatum" on the Golden Temple authorities to hand over criminal case suspects hiding there.

Nothing should be done that could disturb the possibility of fresh talks between Government and the Akalis, she said.

Mrs. Gandhi said some people, implying interested quarters and political parties, were talking loudly of elections. "There is no question of a mid-term poll", she said and added that such talk was only to create confusion.

Nothing could be said about change of Chief Ministers, in Punjab or elsewhere. She denied that any Punjab Minister or legislator had met her to complain against Mr. Darbara Singh or to ask for his ouster.

The States had problems of their own. In the case of Uttar Pradesh, the Chief Minister (Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, now Minister for Commerce) had not been changed, he had resigned on his own. But some times a change was necessary.

On prospects of Punjab coming under President's rule, she told newsmen in Lucknow soon after arrival from New Delhi in the morning, that her Government was not considering any such proposal as such a step was not warranted by the situation in the State.

Mrs. Gandhi blamed the Opposition parties and their leaders for the present tense situation in Punjab. "These people first aggravate the situation by inciting the people and when the situation goes out of control. They start raising a hue and cry against the Government".

The Government would not allow "under any circumstances", the situation in Punjab to deteriorate further, she said. Government would take "all possible steps to deal with those bent on vitiating the atmosphere there".

Foreign hand: In reply to a question at Lucknow airport the Prime Minister agreed that some foreigners were behind the secessionists in Punjab. But she refused to identify them.

When her attention was drawn to the demand made by several Sikh and other organisations for the Government to take appropriate action to arrest the culprits taking shelter in the premises of the Golden Temple, the Prime Minister said, the Government had received such demands from various quarters. But some other aspects had to be considered before taking any action.

Asked if she approved of Uttar Pradesh Ministers going so often to New Delhi, she said Lucknow was quite near New Delhi. Some leaders might be going for their own work also. It was not essential that they always went to Delhi for politics.

About the performance of the Uttar Pradesh Government she said it was "good".

Asked about the problem of indiscipline, Mrs. Gandhi said, "the problem is there before us. It is not only in the Congress (I) but among Opposition parties as well. In fact, it is not only India that is afflicted by it. Even other countries are facing the problem of indiscipline".

Maximum relief: On the drought in the country, the Prime Minister said: "Never in living memory did we face a situation where threefourths of the country had been reeling under drought. This is an unprecedented situation and we are trying to face it boldly. We shall do everything to provide maximum relief to the affected people."

Mr. Gandhi expressed satisfaction at the implementation of the 20-point programme. "Except for a few points, including employment, the progress in regard to others is satisfactory", she said.

"Obstacles" by opposition: Addressing a public meeting in Rae Bareilly, the Prime Minister criticised the Opposition parties for creating obstacles to the welfare activities of the Government.

Mrs. Gandhi said a lot had been done for the uplift of the downtrodden but its impact had not been as good as desired due to the increase in population.

She said attempts were being made to incite the people in the name of religion, caste, language and region with the sole motive of checking the onward march of the nation. Quarrels and agitations do not help prosperity of the

nation and these should be avoided as far as possible, she added.

She expressed regret at the killing of a large number of innocent people in Assam. The Government had to hold elections in Assam in keeping with the constitutional obligations. If the elections had not been held, many more people would have been killed.

Different versions: The Prime Minister accused the Opposition of "telling different stories" on Assam at different places. At times they said that Muslims were the target of mass killings in Assam. At some places, they said it was the Hindus who suffered the most in the riots.

In fact, Mrs. Gandhi said, people of all communities had been killed and it was totally baseless to say that any particular community had suffered.

C: She said violent agitations in Assam and Punjab were dangerous for the country. Both these States are situated on the borders and those who are spearheading the agitation there are actually doing harm to the nation.

More small units: Addressing a development seminar at Rae Bareilly, the Prime Minister stressed the need to reorient the industrial policy with a view to providing more benefits to greater number of people with minimum investment.

She said the big industries had not benefited the country as much as was expected. Medium and small industries should be encouraged as that would benefit greater number of people.

Not for more colleges: An announcement made at the seminar about opening of new schools and colleges did not please the Prime Minister.

She said "What is the use of creating more unemployment by opening more institutions? We cannot provide jobs to the army of men who are coming out of the existing schools and colleges and other such institutions."

Demonstration in Kanpur: Over 100 workers belonging to different political parties and organisations were arrested in Kanpur this evening for staging a black flag demonstration before the Prime Minister while she was driving from the Chakeri Airport to Phoolbagh to address a rally of Congressmen and labour organisations. — UNI & PTI.

REPORT ON GANDHI INTERVIEW IN 'CANBERRA TIMES'

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 May 83 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, May 1 (PTI)--India would not like the Commonwealth to become another forum for bilateral disputes by readmitting Pakistan.

Raising of bilateral disputes would not only affect its functioning but perhaps its very survival, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said in an interview to "Canberra Times" recently.

Asked by its editor, Mr Ian Mathews, whether India was still opposed to Pakistan's readmission to the Commonwealth, Mrs Gandhi said, "It is not a question of opposing them...They left of their own accord. I don't know what the reasons were. And has the situation changed since then?" she said.

Pakistan withdrew from the Commonwealth soon after the liberation of Bangladesh.

To a question whether the Commonwealth secretariat could be of any assistance in ironing out any problem between India and Pakistan, Mrs Gandhi said, "We prefer to iron out problems bilaterally and I don't think the secretariat takes on such things."

Asked what would be India's stand on development of nuclear capacity for peaceful use if reports were confirmed that Pakistan was on the verge of developing a nuclear weapon, the prime minister said "we still believe" in peaceful use of nuclear energy and "we also think that a greater danger to us is with the conventional weapons."

Asked what progress had been made on India's proposal for a peace treaty and Pakistan's non-aggression pact, Mrs Gandhi pointed out that both countries had established a joint commission to go into bilateral matters.

"In all such situations we work for a gradual relaxation and improvement in the atmosphere. With each step it is easier to solve problems. There has been a long background of suspicion and mistrust."

Asked what were the other outstanding problems, she said there were many. The one that "affects us deeply and immediately" was the question of visas and cultural and trade exchanges.

Mrs Gandhi disagreed with the editor that the interests of the non-aligned movement ran contrary to those of developed countries.

"I think in today's world all problems are very closely inter-linked and what happens in the developed world affects us--and if the developing world collapses it will certainly have an effect on the industrialised countries."

The real strength of the non-aligned movement, she said, was that they formed a large part of the world's population.

"I think it is also a major historic force and if we were united and raised our voice in a powerful way it would make a difference."

Asked whether she supported the idea of a permanent secretariat of the non-aligned or felt that it was just another international bureaucracy in the making, Mrs Gandhi said, "I would say that the time has not come to think of it."

Mr Mathews pointed out that countries like Cuba and Afghanistan were members of the non-aligned movement despite their close links with the USSR and this also applied to Pakistan and some others having relationships with the United States and asked whether this did not give rise to doubts that the movement was rather more aligned than it would have the rest of the world believe.

Mrs Gandhi agreed that some countries did have closer relations with some of the super-powers. But "we try to unite on common ground and on that all these countries are agreed."

The Indian position was that some countries were more friendly to it than others but "we disregard the friendship of some countries or the hostility of others," while taking a decision on an issue or assessing a situation."

CSO: 4600/1121

INDIA SEEKING FIRST LOAN FROM ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 4 May 83 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, May 3--Mr Pranab Mukherjee, Union Finance Minister, left tonight for Manila on a loan-seeking mission that could prove to be as controversial and, possibly, as difficult to carry out successfully as the exercise preceding the Rs 5,000-crore loan obtained from the International Monetary Fund in 1981.

India is seeking a loan of \$2 million from the Asian Development Bank over a five-year period in the teeth of opposition from the USA and small Asian countries which are the traditional beneficiaries of the regional institution.

The controversy is over the fact that India has denied itself the right to borrow from the ADB since its inception in 1966, having so far voluntarily declared that its policy was to tap other sources of finance and let the relatively small agency cater to the needs of the other needy countries.

While this is true, the reversal in policy has arisen from the dramatic change in India's balance of payments difficulties over the past few years which had forced the Government to seek the record IMF loan.

The difficulties have not been eliminated even though the foreign exchange reserves situation is somewhat better because of a slight narrowing of the trade gap and the prospect that it will improve further because of the fall in oil prices. But the reserves position has improved, mainly because of the heavy drawings from the IMF, a loan which will have been fully drawn by next year. The current account deficit is then expected to remain at around Rs 3,500 crores a year. Without an alternative and assured sources of replenishment, the reserves could become critically low.

Hence, the need to find new sources of hard currency and the decision to borrow large amounts at an interest rate of 11 percent from the ADB of which India is a founder-member. The aid climate has again become uncertain and there is no guarantee that the World Bank's soft-loan affiliate, the International Development Association, will be in a position to provide as much assistance as it has been the case in the past.

The ADB itself has agreed in principle that India should be given loans. The question is how much India should borrow so that the share of the smaller countries of the region is not eroded significantly and that the ADB's resources are not unduly strained.

In April 1981, India informed the ADB management of its intention to borrow from the ordinary capital resources of the bank. At the same time, the Government reaffirmed its decision not to lay any claim to the concessional resources available through the medium of the Asian Development Fund.

At the time, the general capital increase being contemplated was anticipated to be at the rate of 125 percent; that is, each member country would contribute 125 percent of the shares held by them. The total lending from the ordinary capital resources of the bank during the five-year period was calculated at \$11.34 billion from which India has sought \$2 million over a five-year period.

The third general capital increase has been only 105 percent, the level having been reduced primarily due to opposition from the USA. At this reduced level, the total ordinary capital resources lending will be \$9.55 billion.

CSO: 4600/1123

GANDHI LETTERS TO LEADERS EVOKE LITTLE RESPONSE

Madras THE HINDU in English 2 May 83 p 9

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, May 1.

The External Affairs Ministry is faced with the difficult task of drafting an entirely new set of letters, that are not repetitive, to be sent by the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, to the leaders of the western and eastern blocs, in pursuance of the recommendations made by the ministerial meeting of the nine Non-Aligned countries in Delhi.

In her capacity as Chairperson of the Non-Aligned Movement, Mrs. Gandhi has already written to the Heads of almost 50 countries on the recent summit declarations.

These countries included the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — U.S., Soviet Union, China, Britain and France — and the other members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation Development and Comecon, besides those outside the Non-Aligned Movement.

But now Mrs. Gandhi has to write at least another 15 letters, even before she has received replies to the earlier communications, without repeating herself. She has to write to the U.S., Canada, Britain, France, West Germany, Italy and Japan — and the Comecon seven — the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria — besides the OECD Secretary-General, if not separately to each remaining member.

No reply yet: Strangely enough, not one of the heads of the 50 odd countries to whom the Prime Minister had written requesting their presence at the U.N. General Assembly session in September for at least a week to discuss global problems, has replied so far. The leaders of both the western and eastern blocs would probably consult one another before sending more or less identical replies to the suggestion.

The Prime Minister will have an opportunity to discuss the American reaction to the suggestion when the U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. George Shultz, visits Delhi at the end of June or beginning of July after attending the ASEAN ministerial conference in Bangkok. But the U.S. is supposed to act on the economic issues listed in her second letter at the Williamsburg summit at the end of May, leaving the political issues mentioned in the first letter to be considered later but before the U.N. General Assembly session.

Talks with Soviet Union: The first opportunity for high-level discussions of the political and economic aspects in both the letters with the Soviet Union will be there only when the First Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. I. V. Arkhipov visits Delhi later this month, according to present expectations. But otherwise the Soviet Union is no less cautious in its response to the non-aligned pleas for its participation along with the west in a North-South dialogue.

The Prime Minister expects to meet the French Prime Minister, the West German Chancellor, and some other prominent West European leaders at the European Economic Community-India seminar in Austria next month. During her talks with them, she will be able to renew her appeal for a summit.

Meanwhile, a lot of preparatory work has to be done by India, as Chairman of NAM, with the close cooperation of the U.N. Secretary-General, Mr. Perez de Cuellar to make the summit a starting point for a collective international effort in tackling global political and economic problems. The leaders of the big countries will have to be told that the meeting will not end up with an elocution contest with each one making extravagant suggestions with no corresponding commitments for any joint action.

OPPOSITION ISSUES JOINT STATEMENT ON NELLIE MASSACRE

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 3 May 83 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, May 2--In a joint statement issued today, the leaders of various Opposition parties in Parliament said that the Government had "foreknowledge" and warnings enough about the massacre in Nellie at the time of the elections in Assam but did nothing to prevent the mass killings.

The statement was signed by Mr Charan Singh (Lok Dal); Mr A.B. Vajpayee (BJP); Mr Madhu Dandavate (Janata); Mr A.G. Kulkarni (Cong-S); Mr Ajit Kumar Sharma and Mr Dinesh Goswami, two M.P.s from Assam.

The Opposition leaders cited the "detailed evidence published in a Delhi fortnightly and said "it convincingly proves that the Government had complete and prior knowledge of not merely what was liable to happen but was certain and imminent in Assam (at the time of holding the elections there). The numerous wireless messages which have been produced, and in particular, the message of the officer-in-charge, Nowgong police stations, sent three days before the Nellie massacre, show that the Administration had full and specific warnings about the imminent massacre in Nellie."

The statement added: "It is absolutely essential that the Government issues a White Paper on Assam giving all details of the tripartite discussions, the conduct of the elections and of the resultant violence. A full-scale judicial inquiry about which we have been pressing for long is necessary to establish the facts once and for all and to affix responsibility for the great tragedies that have occurred in Assam."

The leaders have also demanded a statement by the Union Home Minister on whether or not the Government had prior knowledge of the violence that was likely in Assam; laying on the table of both Houses of Parliament reports prepared by the special branch of the Assam Government on the principal massacres as well as all other documents relating to the warnings about the nature and extent of period; the institution forthwith of a full-scale judicial inquiry into each of the principal massacres that have taken place in Assam since the announcement of elections; and a detailed statement from the Government about the steps that have been taken to prevent violence that is widely apprehended once the floods commence.

PTI adds: The Assam Chief Minister, Mr Hiteswar Saikia, announced in Tezpur today that the administration had decided to vigorously start detection and deportation of foreign nationals in Assam from next month. He told reporters that the Cabinet sub-committee was considering the modalities of the proposed tribunals to be set up for the purpose.

CSO: 4600/1122

REOPENING OF RAJASTHAN-PAKISTAN RAIL LINK CONSIDERED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 1 May 83 p 1

[Text]

JAIPUR, April 30.
THE opening of Khokhropar train route from Rajasthan to Pakistan is among the issues likely to come up before the Indo-Pak Joint Commission scheduled to meet in Pakistan next month.

This was stated today by Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry Natwar Singh as also NAM secretary-general while speaking as the chief guest at a seminar on 'Non-alignment—its relevance and role,' jointly organised by the Rajasthan UN Association and the Institute for the Study of Development in the Third World.

Apart from considering the no-war pact proposed by Pakistan and the Treaty of Friendship offered by India, the other issues likely to be reviewed by the joint commission include visas, posts and telegraphs, maritime boundaries, trade and places of worship.

He recalled the four-page no-war pact draft sent through him by President Zia, saying that three-fourth of it was with re-

gard to the arms-aid to Pakistan by the US and only eight lines spoke about the no-war aspect. Indian experts had also noticed the timing and the contents of the draft, he commented.

However, he maintained that there was scope for a better co-operation and understanding between the two countries.

Mr Natwar Singh said non-alignment was a basic feature of India's foreign policy. "It was a great tribute to Jawaharlal Nehru that the basic ingredients of our foreign policy laid

down in 1947 had not been al-

tered even today. Our policy had never been opportunistic."

Earlier, inaugurating the seminar, Chief Minister Shiv Charan Mathur said the success of non-alignment was possible if earnest efforts were made to eradicate poverty and to practise social justice as poverty was "the biggest eroder of human values."

He expressed hope that in the context of the new cold war, non-aligned movement would play an important role.

Justice M L Srimal of the Rajasthan High Court proposed a vote of thanks.

INDIA

BRIEFS

MANIPUR CABINET CHANGES--Imphal, May 4 (PTI)--With the induction of five new ministers today the strength of the 22 month old ministry in Manipur has gone up to 18. Governor S.M.H. Burney administered the oath of office and secrecy to the new ministers at a simple function at Raj Bhavan attended among others by Chief Minister Rishang Keishing and his cabinet colleagues and high civil officials. Dr L. Chandramani Singh (A former Agriculture Minister), Mr K. Radhabinod Singh (a former Electricity Minister) and Mr T.H. Puninkanta Singh were sworn in as cabinet ministers and Mr Gaikhangam and Mr Phungzathang as ministers of state. Mr Radhabinod Singh was dismissed from the ministry nearly 8 months ago along with Mr Lokhon Singh and Mr Holkhogt Khongsai. Mr I.H. Sagar Singh, a former minister of state for works declined an offer for the post of a minister of state this time, party sources said. The swearing in of the new ministers followed the resignation of four cabinet ministers. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 5 May 83 p 1]

AMBASSADOR TO IRELAND--Mr Kiran Doshi, joint secretary in the External Affairs Ministry has been appointed as the next Indian ambassador to Ireland, it was officially announced in Delhi on Tuesday, reports UNI. Mr Doshi, who is in charge of the (south) division in the Ministry will succeed Mr M. Shah. Mr Doshi has held important assignments in Washington, Islamabad and Hong Kong. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 4 May 83 p 2]

CSO: 4600/1125

JATOI OPPOSES EXTRA-CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS FOR PRESIDENT

Karachi DAWN in English 13 May 83 pp 1, 22

[Text]

Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, a leader of the defunct Pakistan People's Party, has criticised a reported move to accord "extra-constitutional powers" to the President under the proposed political structure.

"Any deviationary step to create an imbalance between the powers of the President and the Prime Minister as laid down in the 1973 Constitution will destabilise the future government and, thereby, revert Pakistan to the authoritarian regimes of 1956 and thereafter", he pointed out.

Mr Jatoi was talking to newsmen at his Defence Society residence in Karachi before his departure last night for a medical check-up in the USA.

He said he would be away from the country for two to two-and-a-half months during which he would meet his party colleagues, Mr Mustafa Khar, Dr Ghulam Hussain and others in London and also Begum Nusrat Bhutto in France.

Replying to a question, he said he had invitations from some of the US Senators and, if opportunity arose, he would be "glad to meet them."

Mr Jatoi said certain newspaper reports had lately suggested the revival of the 1956 Constitution in some form or the other. "We (of the PPP) totally reject such a move and reiterate our demand that the 1973 Constitution must be restored in toto".

He recalled how in the past the then political situation had been deliberately destabilised through "arbitrary acts" such as the dissolution of the then Constituent Assembly, removal of Khwaja Nazimuddin and induction of Mr Mohammad Ali Bogra as Prime Minister and then a chain of the "Presidential palace manoeuvrings" culminating in the imposition of the 1958 Martial Law.

"Such a situation which will result through overriding of the Prime Minister's powers are enshrined in the 1973 Constitution will not be tolerated," he said.

In another context, Mr Jatoi made it clear that on no account would the MRD take part in any elections to be held "under the umbrella of Martial Law."

He said there was "no contradiction" on this point in the "united stand" of the MRD's constituents.

Mr Jatoi criticised the latest restrictive measure confining Miss Benazir Bhutto to a "single room" in 70 Clifton sub-jail and said that he was not aware of the reasons behind this move.

According to his information, Miss Benazir had only "very few" attendants and that her sister Sanam Bhutto, her brother-in-law and aunt Begum Fakhri were no longer allowed to visit her.

Mr Jatoi told a correspondent that Miss Benazir's continuing detention would be challenged "soon" in the Federal Shariat Court and that, for the present, a brief was being prepared by her counsel.

CSO: 4600/629

BALUCHISTAN UPLIFT EFFORTS DISCUSSED

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 10 May 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Baluchistan Uplift"]

[Text] In the context of allocations being made for various sectors and zones in the Sixth Five-Year Plan, Dr Mahbubul Haq, Federal Minister for Planning and Development has called Baluchistan "the new frontier for development." The statement is apt, for it underlines the vast scope for agricultural and industrial progress in Baluchistan that has yet to be systematically utilised. For three long decades Baluchistan remained a victim of neglect but things have dramatically changed over the last five years. The present Government has given top priority to the development of Baluchistan, increasing the yearly budgetary allocations manifold. An idea of how more funds are being funnelled to fight backwardness in this Province can be had from the fact that the current year's development outlay is a staggering Rs 212 crore as compared to only Rs 8 crore in 1971. Water resources, communications and power development head the list of priorities. The Government can take legitimate pride in the fact it has not only diverted a good part of the revenue from Sui gas to Baluchistan but has also supplied gas to the people of the Province. A new hard-top road has been built linking Quetta with Karachi which goes through Kalat, Khuzdar and Bela, cutting the distance between the two points by as many as 120 miles. A large number of new schools and colleges have been opened, and new industrial projects based on local raw materials have been established.

The rapid development achieved in Baluchistan in the last five years provides a good base for the new ambitious plan drawn up for the Province in the Sixth Plan. The plan makes a record allocation of Rs 15 billion to accelerate the tempo of economic progress in the Province. It will be besides the substantial amounts to be provided by the Federal Government for the implementation of the Special Development Plan. To streamline and speed up the process of implementation Baluchistan has been divided into five zones. More than 15 million acres of land are lying unused in the Province for want of irrigation. Under the Sixth Plan, over 6 lakh acres will be brought under cultivation. By the end of the plan period 50 percent population of the Province would be provided with safe drinking water and sewerage facilities. There is also a programme to develop 3000 new plots to ease housing shortage in urban areas.

Special emphasis is being placed on the supply of electricity needed both for industry and agriculture. The Sixth Plan aims to provide 400 MW to Baluchistan. A new thermal power station based on indigenous coal is being set up at Dukki which will generate 100 MW. A 200 KV transmission line would also be laid from Guddu to Khuzdar which will stimulate development in Kalat Division. In the industrial sector, the first phase of the long-planned Saindak Copper Complex has been approved and it has been provided that all industries based on the complex would be set up in the Province. The complex is a gigantic one and includes processing plants for copper ore, sulphur, silver, gold, fertiliser, steel billets and other allied units. With the coming into operation of the big complex the process of industrial development in the Province will receive a fillip. The huge allocations made for Baluchistan are intended to overcome the legacy of backwardness there and to enable it to take its place alongside the other areas of the country. Baluchistan is endowed with large mineral deposits and its industrial and agricultural potential is yet largely untapped. If given proper attention the Province can attain a high level of prosperity and be a source of great strength to the national economy as well. This attention, thankfully, Baluchistan is now receiving in ample measure. Given the special concern that the present Government has shown for Baluchistan in the past, it can be safely predicted that no effort will be spared to fulfil the ambitious Sixth Plan targets for the Province.

CSO: 4600/628

NATIONAL INTEGRATION PLAN BEING CONSIDERED

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 12 May 83 p 10

[Text]

KARACHI, May 11: The Federal Government is seriously considering to create a 'solidarity fund' which would be utilised for accelerating pace of development in the backward areas of the country.

According to highly placed and authoritative sources, the Federal Government is expected to ask the two major and relatively more developed provinces of the country, namely Sind and Punjab, to contribute 12 per cent of their Budget towards solidarity fund.

The necessity for creating the solidarity fund was felt during a discussion in the Federal Cabinet meeting on an exhaustive and comprehensive plan and report for national integration prepared by the Federal Information Ministry.

The sources said that Government has also set up a committee headed by Federal Finance and Commerce Minister Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan with two other Federal Ministers as members to report the Federal Government about implementation of National Inte-

gration Plan during six months.

The plan which aims at promoting national integration through various means as mass media, educational institutions, festivals, cultural programmes, seminars, symposia, scout rallies, exchange of students, journalists and artists delegation in different provinces and encouragement of all such activities which could bring people from different areas closer.

Equal emphasis has been given on promotion of sports for national integration.

Yet another important problem identified by the plan was the exposure of overseas Pakistanis particularly the younger ones to adverse propaganda and specific instance of recently produced multi-million dollar film on Gandhi was mentioned.

The plan said the film Gandhi portrayed as distorted version about India and there was all the need to highlight the plight and sufferings of Muslims in undivided India which eventually led to creation of Pakistan.—PPI.

INDIAN RESENTMENT OVER MOTION ON ASSAM REPORTED

Karachi DAWN in English 13 May 83 p 19

[Text]

The Consul-General of India in Karachi, called on Mr Inquilab Matri, President of the Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE), on May 11 to express grave concern and resentment at the resolution of the CPNE about events in the state of Assam in India.

The Consul-General pointed out that "the resolution was an unwarranted interference in the internal affairs of India and gave a distorted and communal colour to developments in Assam."

According to a Press release of the Indian embassy issued in Karachi on Thursday, the Consul-General mentioned it to Mr Matri that the incidents in Assam were not communal in character. They followed expulsion from the state of Assam of all those people who had come to Assam from outside the country, particularly from the former East Pakistan, (now Bangladesh) since 1951. All sections of the people had suffered from actions of the anti-social elements since the commencement of this agitation.—PPI

CSO: 4600/628

PDP LEADER VOICES DIFFERENCES WITH MRD POLICIES

Karachi DAWN in English 13 May 83 p 19

[Text]

LAHORE, May 12: The Secretary-General of the Pakistan Democratic Party, Rana Zafarullah Khan on Thursday expressed his party's inability to accept the 31 points as a basis for launching a campaign for restoration of democracy, as "in this regard a clear-cut and unambiguous decision is yet to be taken by the component parties of the MRD."

In a statement issued here, Rana Sahib made it clear that the 31 points in their present form constituted a controversial document in which, among other things, indirect attempts had been made to seek recognition of the concept of nationalities. The document also wanted its signatories to recognise provinces on historical, cultural and linguistic basis and not merely as administrative units. Similarly, he said, some of these points tried to project economic problems with a particular viewpoint, while the issue of Kashmir and Jammu had been dismissed summarily.

Rana Zafrullah said his party continued to stick to the unanimous decision of making the four fundamental points of the MRD a basis for launching a campaign, and added that the much-desired unity in the ranks of the component parties demanded that the 31 points should not be insisted upon as these did not constitute any formal decision based on unanimity.

CSO: 4600/628

JI ACCUSES NDP LEADERS OF RECEIVING FOREIGN FUNDS

Karachi DAWN in English 13 May 83 p 7

[Text]

PESHAWAR, May 12: Mr. Abdul Haq Press Secretary, Idara-i-Ahyaul-Uloom, a substitute for the defunct Jamaat-i-Islami in NWFP, was warned Khan Abdul Wali Khan, his father Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and leaders of the defunct National Democratic Party that they would have to submit account of all the amounts they have allegedly received from abroad "in return for services in the national political sphere".

In a signed statement, Mr. Haq specially pinpointed the defunct NDP Secretary General, Mr. Ghulam Ahmed Bilour, who, he alleged, met the representative of a foreign mission twice in a month in Peshawar.

He asked Mr. Bilour to disclose the funds, he allegedly received

during these meetings, warning that the Bilour would have to account for the money one day even if he kept it a secret now.

The Jammat leader also bitterly attacked the former Red Shirt leader, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan whom he called "spiritual leader of Karmal and company".

He accusing Ghaffar Khan of dividing Muslims of Pakistan as Punjabis, Sindhis, Pathans on regional and linguistic basis, while during his recent visit to Dir he called Hindus one nation.

Mr. Haq also criticised Ghaffar Khan for his claims that freedom from the British yoke had been possible only through the combined struggle of Hindus and Pathans, totally ignoring the role played by people of other provinces in Pakistan.

CSO: 4600/629

SIND MAY ASK CENTER FOR LOAN

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 8 May 83 p 1

[Article by G.N. Mughul]

[Text]

The Sind Government is likely to approach Federal Government shortly for a loan to the tune of Rs. 300 million in view of serious financial constraints, it was reliably learnt here yesterday.

The factors, which are said to be responsible for upsetting financial discipline of the Province are: (a) sugar policy, (b) wheat policy, (c) enforcement of Ushr, (d) debt-servicing, and (e) increase in pensions.

SUGAR POLICY

The Provincial Government suffered a loss of about Rs. 100 million due to lower sales under commercial quota and full use of domestic quota. It may be mentioned that sugar reserved for domestic quota is provided on concessionary rates.

WHEAT POLICY

Following an increase in the procurement price of wheat, the Sind Government has to bear a loss Rs. 90 million as the price of atta has not been raised thus resulting in increase in the subsidy being given on atta.

USHR

With the enforcement of Ushr from this Rabi crop, the Provin-

cial Government has to forgo Land Revenue (DHAL).

Besides, increase in pension rates and payment of debts are estimated to have reduced provincial finances by Rs. 125 million.

According to informed sources, these extraordinary factors have defeated the government efforts to bridge the gap in Sind ADF for 1982-83.

It will be recalled that at the time of presenting current year's budget, Provincial Minister Ashraf. W. Tabani had announced that the Government would finance its ADP through its own sources to the tune of Rs. 300 million, as asked by the Federal Government.

It is learnt that the provincial government had generated more than Rs. 300 million through various measures. About Rs. 170 million were collected through new tax efforts; Rs. 24 million were earned as dividend declared by Sind Sugar Corporation; Rs. 20 million were acquired by selling plots by KDA, Rs. 26 million were recovered as electricity duty and Rs. 100 million were saved through economy measures.

But this was of little avail since the Government's revenue suffered a shortfall and the expenditure increased beyond budgetary estimates.

MORE BANK BRANCHES IN REMITTANCE AREAS PLANNED

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 7 May 83 p 1

[Text]

LAHORE, May 6: The Pakistan Banking Council has announced the new banks expansion policy in which the nationalised banks have been directed to open their branches in the areas where foreign remittances accrue in big amounts.

The identification of such areas and the number of new branches to be opened has been left to the discretion of banks, official sources said here today.

The sources said the new policy also provided for opening new bank branches in the industrial and agriculturally-developed areas. The areas wherein agriculture had also prospects of development, even in the future, would also have their own bank branches, these sources added.

A bank branch, which is currently running into loss, can be shifted to any place within a radius of five miles where the bank authorities anticipate increase in deposits, according to the new policy.

The primary objective of this policy is to provide maximum banking facilities to the masses at their doorsteps. With the opening of new branches, the problems in depositing Government dues will also be solved in several areas.

According to these sources, all the banks are preparing their proposals and identifying the new places where new branches could be opened.—PPI.

ZIA CALLS FOR MASS LITERACY DRIVE

Karachi DAWN in English 13 May 83 p 1

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, May 12: President Gen. Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq today announced the formation of a special committee, headed by him, to review the implementation of various education plans in the country, and presented a 10-point agenda for consideration at a national workshop on female literacy which he opened this morning.

The President drew the attention of workshop participants to the low rate of literacy in the country, particularly among women, and said the situation required some kind of a crash programme to rectify it. He warned that the low rate of literacy had been proving a major handicap in the nation's march towards economic and social development.

The President said there had been several plans on paper to end illiteracy in the country but few had been followed up in right earnest.

He also emphasised the need for coordination and cooperation among the various provincial and Federal agencies working towards promotion of literacy.

The President recalled that education and literacy campaign had been selected as a theme for the 15th century Hijra and said that people at large had also placed education among the high-priority needs.

The President strongly felt that women who played a major role in events like the general election, as was seen in 1970 and 1977, could play their role in building up society by paying greater attention to education, not only of their

children but also of others who remained illiterate for a variety of reasons.

The President asked the participants of the three-day workshop, organised by the Literacy and Mass Education Commission, to consider the 10-point agenda he had placed before them and identify the factors hindering literacy and education, specially among women, and suggest concrete and practical measures to overcome them.

Literacy campaign

He had proposed, among other things, massive literacy campaigns by organising literacy classes across the country during summer vacations by teachers and students, as also by others who have had the benefit of education, and set a pre-condition for all fresh graduates and post-graduates to make at least one individual literate, before they are entitled to receive their university degrees.

If the majority of educated persons regarded it their duty to make at least one illiterate person learn Yassaral Quran, it would go a long way in ending illiteracy from society, the President said.

Addressing the inaugural session, Mr A.K. Brohi, Chairman, National Hijra Committee, underscored the importance of literacy for mass development and awakening and said that without universal education the nation could make little progress.

Mr. Inayatullah, Chairman, Literacy and Mass Education Commission, in his address of welcome said

a national literacy programme had been formulated for inclusion in the Sixth Five-Year Plan and hoped the literacy programme would receive necessary financial and material support in the next Plan period.

Begum Saleema Ahmad, Secretary, Federal Women Division, drew attention to the dire need of lifting women from their pathetic conditions.

The specific objectives of the current workshop are:

1. Identification of the causes of extremely low level of female literacy, especially in rural areas, and problems/factors which stand in the way of literacy efforts.
2. Identification of factors that promote female literacy.
3. Planning and management of literacy programmes.
4. Identification of significant features in regard to literacy efforts for women.
5. Motivation content.
6. Ensuring women's participation.
7. Identification of locations for female literacy centres.
8. Functioning/operating of the literacy centres.
9. Identification of personnel to be used for literacy/skill development.
10. Identification of influential persons and change agents in the local community.
11. Identification of practical skills which may be taught to women.
12. Supervision and evaluation.
13. Impact/benefits of female literacy.

NWFP BAN ON STUDENT UNIONS HAILED

Karachi DAWN in English 13 May 83 p 7

[Text]

ABBOTTABAD, May 12: The recent decision of the NWFP Government to ban students' unions in the educational institutions was hailed by the members of the Provincial Council here on Wednesday.

The members expressed their opinion on the subject on a question from Mr Fida Mohammad Khan (Lundkhawar) facilitated the provincial Governor, Lt-Gen Fazle Haq, for taking timely, realistic and compelling decision for providing congenial atmosphere in the educational institutions.

He Expressed grave concern over the deteriorating academic atmosphere and demanded stringent punishment to the elements inciting violence. He also said that no student union should be allowed to function under political nomenclature. The speakers including Mr Amin Khan Tareen (Haripur), Saranjam Khan (Mardan) and Mr Ikramullah Khan Drabose (Mardan), deplored the incident of violence on the Campus of Peshawar University and said that the step taken by the provincial Government had been welcomed by the entire nation. They demanded deterrent punishment for culprits.

Mr Ikramullah Khan Drabouse proposed that the nomination

should be made on the senate of the university instead of election, as he opined that indulgence in politics on the campus started from there.

Earlier, the provincial senior Minister Arbab Jehangir Khan, who was in the chair, while replying to the question said that the situation on the Peshawar University campus was not peculiar as the tendency of turning university campuses into political arenas existed all over the country. As a matter of fact the atmosphere in the Peshawar University had generally remained peaceful. The situation was particularly exemplary during the university elections, he said.

Arbab Jehangir Khan who holds portfolio of Education noted that the Provincial Governor, Lt-Gen Fazle Haq, had been taking personal interest in the affairs of the Peshawar University, with a view to improving educational atmosphere and standard, a number of steps were taken including fixation of seats in different colleges, fixation of age limit and making admission strictly on merit.

He, however, made it clear that the Government did not recognise any political party or federation in the educational institutions.

The Minister stated that University accounts were duly audited under the rules.—APP.

FOOD ADULTERATION SAID TO BE SEVERE

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 9 May 83 p 3

[Text]

Food adulteration has assumed alarming proportions in the City and every second food sample collected by the Lahore Municipal Corporation is found adulterated or sub-standard.

Of 15,000 food samples collected last year more than 8,500 were found adulterated and unfit for human consumption on analysis. Maximum adulteration was detected in samples of milk and milk products and sweetening agents. Even about 72 per cent samples were found sub-standard or adulterated.

More than 60 per cent samples of fruit and vegetable products were also found sub-standard and every second sample of cereals and an average 45 per cent samples of spices were found adulterated.

Interestingly enough, nearly 40 per cent samples of sweets and baking products were found sub-standard while every third sample of oils and fats also contained impurities. Adulteration in miscellaneous samples exceeded 50 per cent.

CSO: 4600/628

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

SHIPPING CORPORATION FINANCIAL STRUCTURE--The Chairman of Pakistan National Shipping Corporation, Rear Admiral Abdul Waheed Bhombal, has indicated there is possibility of re-shaping of financial structure of his organisation by the Government in the near future. The Government, he said, was being kept fully informed of the deteriorating financial structure of PNSC in wake of mounting interest burden on his organisation which has seriously hampered the equity-debt ratio. He was replying to questions from a panel of experts in the television programme, "Ru-Baroo" telecasted on Thursday evening.--PPI [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 13 May 83 p 6]

RESERVED SEATS FOR FATA STUDENTS--Peshawar, May 12--The Federal Government have announced reservation of 51 seats for tribal students in various engineering institutions of the country, says an official handout. The seats are in the Engineering Universities of Peshawar, Karachi, Lahore and Jamshoro; Dawood Engineering College, Karachi; College of Engineering, Texila; and National College of Texila Engineering, Faisalabad. Tribal students who seek admissions against the reserved seats have been advised to apply through their respective political authorities. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 13 May 83 p 7]

CSO: 4600/629

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